

Special Olympics Kansas

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Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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Three Athletes Inducted into Hall of Fame Special Olympics Kansas Recognizes Outstanding Athletes

MISSION, Kan. - During the 45th Annual Summer Games, three extraordinary athletes were inducted into the Special Olympics Kansas Hall of Fame.

Chuck Crawford, an athlete for over 35 years and a member of the Midwest Wildfires, plays a number of sports including track, softball, bocce, soccer, volleyball, basketball, bowling and cross-country skiing. In 2001, Chuck participated in the Special Olympics World Winter games. Chuck is an enthusiastic and active member of his community, participating in the Crop Walk and being the top fundraiser, doing the MS150 bike ride, donating blood, attending Ottawa high school and university sporting events and attending church as an usher. His family credits his experiences as a Special Olympian for the spirit he shines in all areas of his life.

John "JJ" Fleenor, a competitor since the age of 8 and a member of Topeka Shawnee, participates in many sports such as basketball, track, aquatics, power-lifting, bocce, bowling and volleyball. In 2006, JJ competed in the powerlifting inaugural S.O. USA games in Iowa. Showing great dedication, JJ trains about 40 weeks of the year and has gained great friendships. Although health problems are now slowing him down, JJ stays active through sports working to improve his health. Despite these health problems, JJ's dedication pushes him to pursue continued involvement through volunteering.

Roy Baxter has been an athlete for over 30 years, and is a member of the Dodge City Dodgers. He participates in athletics, bowling and basketball, always arriving to practice with a greeting and handshake. Roy enthusiastically works competitively with his peers and with great focus toward each activity. His positive attitude is unwavering, win or lose. The success Roy has achieved has helped him to accept life and continuously improve his already bright attitude. Roy's involvement with Special Olympics and friendliness towards those around him has provided him a family through his fellow athletes.

An induction into the Special Olympics Hall of Fame takes more than a gold medal. The criteria for selection focuses on the number of years an athlete has competed, overall performance, sportsmanship, the number of hours spent training, and the benefit of athlete's participation to him or her. These very important athletes deserve to be recognized for their personal and athletic accomplishments. Nomination forms are available on-line at www.kssso.org and may be submitted any time. Awards are given annually at the Summer Games.

Chris Hahn, President and CEO of Special Olympics Kansas presented the awards as part of the Opening Ceremony of the 2015 Summer Games.

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