



RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING EIGHT NASHUA BASEBALL COACHES

CITY OF NASHUA

In the Year Two Thousand and Twelve

RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Nashua that the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen recognize eight dedicated Nashua baseball coaches.

These coaches have given of themselves because of their love of the game. Jim Sanderson, Ernie Berube, Bob Morin, Ray Oban, Gene Barretto and Bill Murphy had no children in the program when they started coaching. Willie Keirstead and Duane Erickson continued to coach long after their children had left the program.

Willard "Willie" Keirstead has coached baseball in Nashua for close to 45 years and has coached for the Athletics in Babe Ruth for 42 years. He first started coaching in the 12 and 13 year old minor leagues and he also coached the baseball team at Daniel Webster College.

Duane Erickson has been coaching for over 35 years. He coached in Little League, Senior Babe Ruth Chiefs and he is the current head coach for both the Babe Ruth Yankees and the Nashua Catholic Jr. High School.

Jim Sanderson began his coaching career in 1958 for an independent league while in Germany. He has coached at all levels in Nashua - Little League, Babe Ruth, and Senior Babe Ruth. He has coached the Babe Ruth Tigers for 47 years.

Ernie Berube played and coached in the Ward League in Nashua. He has coached in all levels of baseball, including the American Legion as well as being head coach for the Babe Ruth Indians.

Bob Morin has coached youth baseball in Nashua for over 45 years. He began coaching when the Babe Ruth League was started in 1958. He has coached the Red Legs at the Babe Ruth level for numerous years.

Ray Oban is a legendary player and coach in Nashua history. He played in the Boston Red Sox minor league system and he was a member of the first Nashua High School team to play at Holman Stadium. He was the first person called upon to coach in the new Little League program in Nashua and he became the first pitching coach for Bishop Guertin High School. The Babe Ruth Prep League is named after Mr. Oban.

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R-12-076

Bill Murphy has coached youth baseball in Nashua for close to fifteen years. He has coached the Braves in Babe Ruth baseball and he is also involved in the Nashua East Little League.

Gene Barretto is a long-time coach who started coaching baseball in 1965. He established himself as one of the most winning Babe Ruth coaches in Nashua history. The All-Star Basketball Tournament is named for him.

Collectively these eight coaches have put in over 250 years of dedication to the youth of Nashua and the Babe Ruth Baseball League. Not only have they coached in the Babe Ruth League, but they have also given their time to the Ward Leagues, Little Leagues, Senior Babe Ruth, American Legion and school programs. Together these eight coaches as a group have coached close to fifty championship Nashua baseball teams in local, district, state and regional tournaments.

These men have been dedicated to the youth of Nashua in coaching a sport that they love, and teaching thousands of youngsters the meaning of good sportsmanship. Several of these dedicated coaches have received the Annual Service to Youth Award including Bob Morin, Gene Barretto, Ray Oban, Ernie Berube and Duane Erickson.

Your enthusiasm, hard work, dedication, sportsmanship and accomplishments bring recognition and pride to the City of Nashua. We thank you for your service.

NOW THEREFORE, Mayor Donnalee Lozeau and the Board of Aldermen, on behalf of the citizens of Nashua, express their thanks and appreciation to Willie Keirstead, Duane Erickson, Jim Sanderson, Ernie Berube, Bob Morin, Ray Oban, Bill Murphy and Gene Barretto for their years of service to the youth of Nashua; and

FURTHERMORE, the Babe Ruth Field at North Common is dedicated to these eight coaches and the intersection of Sargents Avenue and Artillery Lane will be known as “Coaches Corner.”

PASSED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN – OCTOBER 9, 2012

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR – OCTOBER 11, 2012

ATTEST: PAUL R. BERGERON, CITY CLERK