

City of
Olive Branch, Mississippi
HALL OF FAME

Established to honor and perpetuate the memory of those special men and women whose contribution to this community, since the first settlers arrived in 1836 until the present time, has had a meaningful impact on the development of Olive Branch, Mississippi or who have led exemplary lives as members of this community.

1/1/2016

HOW IT IS STRUCTURED and HOW IT FUNCTIONS

In the Spring of 2007, **Mayor Sam Rikard** approved the establishing of the *Olive Branch Hall of Fame*. A *Hall of Fame Charter* was drawn up with rules outlining how it would function. The *Charter* has been amended once in August of 2014 to prescribe the method for breaking a tie in the voting for induction into the *Hall of Fame*.

The Mayor, on August 1, 2007, under the provisions of the *Hall of Fame Charter*, appointed a seven (7) member *Hall of Fame Board*, with each member to serve a five (5) year term. The Mayor makes appointments to fill any vacancies on the Board and to appoint or reappoint new or existing Board Members at the expiration of terms. The members of the *Hall of Fame Board* at this time (1/1/2016) are:

SARAH CAMP	BILL CRUTHIRDS, Sr.	FORREST HAMILTON
MILTON NICHOLS	SAM RIKARD	JIMMY WOODS
SCOTT PHILLIPS (Sitting Mayor serves as ex-officio member and Chairman)		

The duties of the *Hall of Fame Board* are to annually conduct the lengthy nominating process and participate in the balloting to determine the five (5) individuals who are to be inducted into the *Olive Branch Hall of Fame* each year.

For the first year of the *Hall of Fame's* existence (2007 ONLY), ten (10) individuals were selected as the *Charter Inductees* into the *Olive Branch Hall of Fame*. They were:

MILTON BLOCKER, Sr.	B. J. CHAIN	STEPHEN FLINN
M. C. HERRINGTON	JAN JOHNSON	LUSH PUN TUBBY
JACK McCAULEY	D. M. NICHOLS	G. B. PAYNE
HOMER SKELTON		

Each year following the charter inductions of 2007, as called for in the *Hall of Fame Charter*, five (5) individuals have been inducted annually into the *Hall of Fame*. Presently, up through the inductions for the year 2014, there are forty-five (45) members in the *Olive Branch Hall of Fame* (sixteen [16] living and twenty-nine [29] deceased).

A name plate for each *Hall of Fame Inductee* is affixed to the large bronze *Hall of Fame Plaque* in the Rotunda on the first floor of Olive Branch City Hall. The *Inductee's* photograph and a biography of their life is placed in the *Hall of Fame Honor Book* located next to the *Hall of Fame Plaque*.

The nomination process for the selection of Inductees starts each year with the publication of the Spring/Summer City Newsletter which is mailed to every household and business in Olive Branch on, or around, April 1st. The newsletter has a "clip out form" where the general public is asked for nominee recommendations. These forms are not ballots and those submitting them are not voting for someone. They are only for the general public to recommend a name for consideration. Multiple copies of someone's name are not necessary (25 copies carry no more weight than a single copy). These recommendations from the general public must be received at City Hall no later than the first Friday in June in order for them to be considered for the current year.

The recommendations which are received from the general public are passed on to the *Hall of Fame Nominating Committee* which is made up of the seven (7) members of the *Hall of Fame Board*. Each *Nominating Committee Member* is required, each year, to submit the names of five (5) nominees (which may, or may not, include any of the general public recommendations). All *Nominees* received from the members of the *Nominating Committee* are listed on the ballot along with the names of any *Nominee* who received at least one vote in the previous year's *Hall of Fame* balloting. A typical ballot each year will generally contain the names of around thirty-five to forty *Nominees*.

Ballots are prepared and mailed to each member of the *Hall of Fame Voting Body*. The *Voting Body* is made up of all seven (7) members of the *Hall of Fame Board*, plus all living members of the *Hall of Fame* who are not members of the *Hall of Fame Board*. At this time (1/1/2016) there are a total of sixteen (16) members of the *Hall of Fame Voting Body*.

Each member of the *Voting Body* votes for five (5) names from those *Nominees* listed on the ballot, giving his first choice five (5) points, his second choice four (4) points, his third choice three (3) points, his fourth choice two (2) points and his fifth choice one (1) point. The ballots are totaled and the five (5) individuals receiving the highest number of points become the five *Hall of Fame Inductees* for that year. The *Hall of Fame Charter* has a tie-breaking provision in the event of a tie. Any *Nominee* who receives at least one (1) vote in the balloting remains in nomination and is carried forward to the following year.

The names of the five (5) *Hall of Fame Inductees* are announced in the Fall/Winter City Newsletter which is published on, or around, October 1st. each year *The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony* takes place on the third Thursday in April of the following year.

***Induction into the Olive Branch Hall of Fame is the highest honor
the City of Olive Branch can bestow upon one of its citizens.***