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Obituaries: 2025 to 2026



As we enter the new year, Senior Softball returns with more 2026 tournaments and reminders.

**Obituaries: 2025 to 2026**

**Chuck Sharkey.**



**Charles "Chuck" Sharkey, 76, of Camillus, N.Y., died on Dec. 9, 2025.**

Chuck was Senior Softball USA's New York state director, a long-time manager and someone who touched the lives of many within and outside of the sport.

He came to SSUSA in the early 2000s, mostly as a coach or manager, but stepping in as a player when needed.

By 2009, he was named the New York state director for his talent and influence in the region and the Northeast Championships. He also

**2026 Tournament Updates and Reminders for the New Year**

**Softball News Report**

Senior Softball USA's 2026 season schedule is online, however some events (listed below) are changing dates or locations. To view the entire schedule, please use the link here: <https://seniorsoftball.com/?events>.

**While the list of tournaments is published, many events are still being updated with host hotels and further details. We appreciate your patience while we complete the tournament pages. More qualifiers may be added as we receive them.**

**2026 World Championships**

**September 17 - October 4  
Las Vegas, NV**



The World Championships will keep its traditional dates, however, the Women's 50+ divisions return to their original dates of play:

- Session 1: Men's 55-60+ (September 17-20)
- Session 2: Men's 65-90+ (September 21-24)
- Session 3: Men's & Women's 40+ (September 25-27)
- Session 4: Men's & Women's 50+ (October 1-4)

was named Rookie Director of the Year that same year.

"Chuck was instrumental in growing the sport not only in New York, but in the entire Northeast," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA's chief executive officer. "He helped build the Northeast Championships into a signature event for the area. We – and the sport – will miss Chuck immensely."

Said Fran Dowell, SSUSA's executive director, "He worked with the Syracuse parks, the hotels and the convention bureau to bring the best of the best, just like Chuck, the best of the best to softball."

According to his online obituary, "Chuck had a lifelong passion for sports and competition. He was an avid softball coach, earning inductions into the National Softball Hall of Fame and achieving multiple league and tournament championships."

Sharkey was inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame in the SSUSA Northeast Championships in Syracuse as part of the Class of 2024.

"His Hall of Fame plaque and a number of championship shirts were on display with several championship rings" said Tony Campitello, an SSUSA director and player who attended Chuck's celebration of life.

Outside of senior softball, Chuck made a 40+ year career working as a pharmacist, and besides spending time with family, "he also enjoyed trivia, bowling—once rolling a perfect game—and cheering on the New York Mets," added his online obituary.

Chuck will best be remembered as manager of Fuccillo's Athletics 55s and the Northeast Jackhammers 60-65s, both out of New York.

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**Betty Yacono**

- International Co-Ed division (October 3-4)

**Note: Women's 40+ divisions will play session 3 and Women's 50+ divisions will play session 4.**

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### **2026 Top Gun Winter Classic**

**February 27 – March 1**

**West Covina, CA**



We have been able to add Friday to the 2026 Top Gun Winter Classic in West Covina. The event will be 3-days (Feb. 27 - Mar. 1), with Men's 50-60+ and Women's teams playing Saturday and Sunday (Feb. 28 - Mar. 1) and Men's 65-85+ teams playing all three days (Feb. 27 - Mar. 1).

Men's 40+ teams will play one-day only, Saturday, Feb. 28.

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### **2026 Midwest Championships**

**March 20-25**

**Kansas City, KS**



At the request of the city, the 2026 Midwest Championships will be about one month earlier than last year, on March 20-25. Sessions will also be swapped to avoid other conflicts. The younger divisions (40-60+ and Women's) will play first on Friday through Sunday, while the older divisions (65-85+) will play the Monday through Wednesday.

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### **2026 Tidewater Classic**

**March 25-29**

**Virginia Beach, VA**



Due to the timing of Easter next year, the 2026 season's Tidewater Classic will move back by a week to March 25-29.

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### **2026 Spring National Championships/Horton & Wood Classic**

**April 11-12**

**Polk County, FL**



**Elizabeth “Betty” Jean Yacono, 84, of Lake Zurich, Ill., died on Dec. 24, 2025.**

Betty, as she liked to go by, was a Senior Softball USA director along with her husband, Joe Yacono, before retiring in 2022.

“She always loved the many friends we made doing the tournament in Las Vegas,” said Joe, referring to their work at the SSUSA World Championships.

“Betty was such a great director,” said Fran Dowell, SSUSA’s executive director. “She was a true inspiration. Joe and Betty loved their Chicago softball and hosted many events there. Betty will be so missed for her kindness and beautiful heart.”

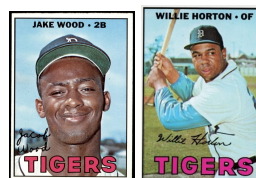
Outside of senior softball, she is remembered for his deep faith and joy for life. “She never turned down a roller coaster ride with her grandchildren, was often the first of those on the dance floor at family celebrations... cheering on her husband at softball games... taking a chance on the slots at a casino, traveling on a road trip with her family, or enjoying good food and drinks around the dinner table,” according to her online obituary.

**David T. Bush**



**David Thomas Bush, 90, of Gulf Breeze, Fla., died on Feb. 8, 2025.**

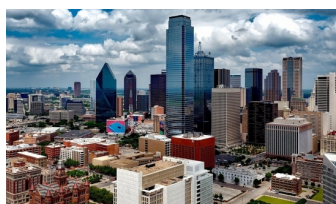
David’s history with Senior Softball USA starts in the late 1990s,



To avoid several national youth soccer tournaments in Polk County, mid-March, the 2026 Spring Nationals will be held a month later, April 11-12.

**Note: This event is now a two-day tournament (Saturday and Sunday).**

**2026 Texas State Championships  
April 28 - May 3  
Dallas, TX**



Senior Softball USA is proud to announce Dallas as the new host city of the annual Texas State Championships.

Despite the new location and fields, the dates of play will remain equivalent to last year's.

**2026 Rock 'N' Reno Challenge Cup  
May 22-31  
Reno, Sparks & Carson City, NV**



Women's 50-60s teams will be moving to the first session, playing May 22-24 along with the Men's 50-55s teams.

Men's and Women's 40s will remain session three (May 29-31) and Men's 65-85s will remain session two (May 26-28).

**2026 Maui Qualifier  
July 10-12  
Kahului, HI**

but his most active years with SSUSA was 2008 to 2020.

"A lifelong athlete, he loved basketball, tennis, golf, bowling, skiing and softball," according to his online obituary. David was inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame as the Class of 2020 as a Pioneer Player.

"Dave was one of the best softball players that I have ever played with," said Hugh Brotherton, manager of Center For Sight 85s of Florida. "He could drive the ball deep as well hit over .800 at our many tournaments. Dave was also great leader on and off the field."

Before his senior softball days, he served in the Navy from 1952 to 1955 and later found a career after college as an accountant for AT&T.

David will best be remembered playing with Ed's Aluminum Buildings 60s & 70s (FL), Georgia Peaches 75s, Florida Investment Properties 80s and Center For Sight 85s (FL).

#### Jim M. Fulks



**James "Jim" Fulks, 81, of Maumelle, Ark., died on July 5, 2025 due to complications of Parkinson's Disease.**

Jim had a long history of playing with Senior Softball USA, starting in the 1990s before stopping in 2022.

After his retirement in 2001 Maumelle, Arkansas, Jim "thought his softball years were over," said his online obituary. "But by turning 50 that year, he was eligible to play Senior Softball."

"He soon was a team manager, coach, and pitcher, for a traveling senior team. He and his wife,



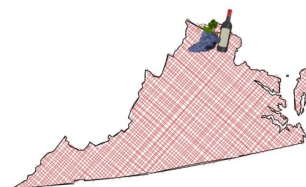
The Aloha State gains another qualifier on a different island. Say 'aloha' to Maui this July 10-12.

**Note: This is not a TOC Qualifier like the Aloha Bowl, March 3-8 in Honolulu. However, teams competing in Maui will qualify for the 2026 World Championships in Vegas.**

#### **2026 Eastern National Championships**

**July 21-26**

**Loudoun County, VA**



The 2026 Easterns are moving back to the traditional dates of July 21-26. The 2025 Easterns were played a week later in 2025 upon request of the county.

### **Top Gun Inducts Two Members into Hall of Fame**

#### **Softball News Report**

VISTA, CA – The Top Gun Senior Softball Association capped its 15 annual Awards Ceremony here with two Hall of Fame Inductions, recognition of MVPs from 13 Top Gun teams, a surprise special President's Award to Jeff Blakeman, and donation of \$3,300 to the U.S. Navy/ Marine Corps Relief Society.

The two Hall of Fame inductees include Joe Hensley, who was inducted into the Senior Softball USA National Hall of Fame this year as well, and Rick Fisher, longtime manager of Top Gun Olde Dawgs teams.

One of the evening's highlights was the generous presentation of a \$2,500 check by Top Gun President Don Ludwig and Military Liaison Sgt Maj Mike Berg, USMC, Ret., to the U.S. Navy/ Marine Corps Relief Society ([photo below](#)). In addition, members generously contributed over \$800, during the banquet.



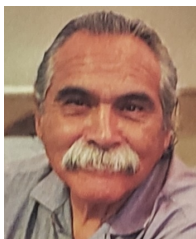
Bonnie, traveled to many locations around the United States playing ball, meeting new friends and having a great time,” the obituary added.

He was inducted into the Arkansas Senior Softball Hall of Fame in 2015 and part of the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame Class of 2020.

Outside of senior softball, he enjoyed his involvement in church and golf. Before Jim’s senior softball days, he served in the Army and made a 37-year career in life insurance across Missouri, Arkansas and Illinois.

Jim will best be remembered for playing and managing The Crackerbox 65-70s, which later changed their name to Boyd Metals 70s (AR) and LOTA Softball 80s (TX).

### **Rudy Duran**



**Rudy Duran, 73, of Pomona, Calif., died on Oct. 6, 2025.**

Rudy had a long history playing with Senior Softball USA, starting in 2007, playing with many Southern California teams.

Born and raised in Pomona, much of his life revolved around sports. In high school, he played football, baseball and track. “A true competitor, Rudy was a passionate softball player, earning him the nickname of “Grouch” of the diamond,” according to his online obituary.

A devoted family man, he would often attend his grandkids’ games, coaching from the stands. He was also known for his skills, from crafting equipment for his grandkids’ sports to handmade cribs for each of his daughter’s first borns.



**Top Gun President, Don Ludwig (left) presenting donation check to Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society Lead, Anne Powers (center), and Liaison Sgt Maj Mike Berg, USMC, Ret.**

“It has been our pleasure at Senior Softball USA to partner with Top Gun for almost 30 years to help build Senior Softball in Southern California and beyond,” said keynote speaker Terry Hennessy, SSUSA’s chief executive officer.

“San Diego has been a hotbed of senior softball – largely because of Top Gun for those three decades. In 2014, Top Gun became the only Senior Organization to be inducted into the Senior Softball Hall of Fame,” he said.

“We feel both organizations are based on the same core values: fairness and integrity – and both are dedicated to making the game both better and open to all seniors.”

Hennessy also recognized Red Simmons, a longtime Top Gun manager, who was inducted into the SSUSA Hall of Fame this year.

## **Toys for Kids Rec Tourney Donates 60+ Bikes and More for Impoverished Children**



**Tim Rud and his Road Warriors team with the 31 bikes they were able to donate.**

### **By Nic Francois Softball News Report**

PHOENIX, AZ – Rick Seifman’s annual Toys for Kids recreational tournament, held Dec. 5-7, saw an astonishing 61 bikes donated. Each year, toys and other donations are given by the players/teams to help provide a joyous Christmas season for impoverished kids in the Phoenix region.

The Road Warrior’s three senior softball teams started the “Toys for Kidz Bike Challenge” and urged the other 12 competing teams to participate.

In the senior softball community, Rudy will be best remembered playing with So Cal (Gusto) 55-60s, Git-R-Done 55, 65-70s, SoCal Warriors 65s, Godzilla 65s and West Coast All Stars 70s, all from California.

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### **Randy Brookens**



**Randall Lee Brookens, 67, of Waynesboro, Penn., died peacefully on Oct. 14, 2025.**

Randy joined Senior Softball USA back in 2013, retiring after the 2024 season.

He was very loyal to his team, Roadhouse Blues 50-55s of New Jersey. The team changed their name to Olympian Athletics 55-60s in 2015 and disbanded after the 2023 season. During the 2024 season, he played with Pill & Pill 65s (WV) and Anchor Mechanical 60s (MD) before retiring.

Randy was very active, "Up until the time of his illness, he was an avid hunter and was still playing competitive softball and trail riding on his dirt bikes," according to his online obituary.

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### **Victor Herrera**



**Victor "Jay" Alfonso Herrera, 41, of L.A., died on Oct. 21, 2025.**

Victor joined Senior Softball USA right as he turned 40 years old to play with GENESIS/ONYX/BG, also of L.A. He played with the in 2024 and 2025, for TOC Qualifiers in Southern California and Las Vegas.

"Our Road Warriors teams, [ages 60/65/70+], alone raised \$5,000 to purchase 31 bicycles (and locks)," said Tim Rud, manager and primary coordinator of the Road Warrior softball teams, located out of both Arizona and Minnesota.

"The other teams like Los Vatos Viejo's 70s added many bikes to the donations for a total of 61 bicycles," added Rud.

Moises "Mouse" Longoria, manager of the Los Vatos Viejo's 70s, said his team donated 15 bikes as well.

Rud highlighted that the bike drive was predominantly coordinated by Gina Tomlison and her husband, Brian Lohman, who plays on the Road Warrior's 60s team. Not only did they collect the funds, but they also obtained the bikes and transported them via a U-Haul truck.

In addition to the amazing number of bikes, other toys and canned food goods were donated as well, by all 13 teams.

"The tournament directors Rick Seifman and Mark Harmon as well as the umpires did a terrific job hosting the event," added Rud.

Consider joining Rick's 2026 Angel Kids Christmas Benefit (Toys for Kids), Dec. 5-6 in Phoenix. Contact Rick by visiting the tournament page here: <https://seniorsoftball.com/?event=2257>.

## **Milwaukee Classic Raises More Than \$100,000 for Wounded Warriors**

### **By Nic Francois Softball News Report**

Milwaukee, WI – Thom Mikich's annual qualifier has two goals: draw teams from surrounding states for a fun competition... and raise funds for the Wound Warrior Project.

The 2025 event hosted 37 teams from five states and has been hosted since 2004 with Senior Softball USA. Since then, the tournaments have raised \$109,000 for the Wounded Warriors.

Champion teams receive a cased American flag, Wounded Warrior medals and \$1,000 donated to the foundation in the teams' name.

Wounded Warrior Project provides assistance to post 9/11 wounded, ill, and injured veterans, service members, and their families through mental, physical, emotional, and financial wellness programs while helping prevent veteran suicide.

If you are in or near Wisconsin, please consider entering your team to Thom's 2026 Milwaukee Classic – Wounded Warrior Benefit, July 23- 26 or visit the tournament page here: <https://seniorsoftball.com/?event=2266>.



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## **Stay At SSUSAs Official Hawaiian Resort Hotel**

“On and off the field you were a beautiful force with the ability to make anyone smile,” one friend, MJ Friel, said on his online obituary, where scores of friends and family members went to share loving photos and memories of Victor.

“You are greatly loved and missed. I can’t help but laugh at the great times we had joking around playing ball, playing cards and going on little adventures,” MJ added.

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### **Chris Satterfield**



**Christopher “Rabbit” James Satterfield, 51, of Glendora, Calif., died on Oct. 21, 2025.**

Chris, or Rabbit, and most friends called him, played with Senior Softball USA from 2015 to 2018.

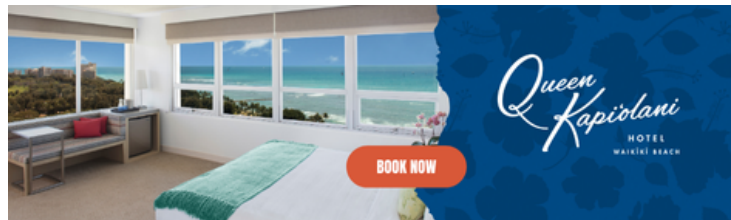
“Rabbit’s presence on the softball field was known by always wearing a beanie, even in 100-degree weather!,” according to his online obituary.

“Rabbit/Chris has always been known as a very family-oriented, strong, intelligent, very funny, lovable, kind of guy,” his obituary added.

Rabbit will be best remembered for playing with Worth/Loaded Sports 40s (CA), Battleborn/Loaded Sports 40s (CA), Desert Springs 40s (NV) and Flawless 40s (CA).

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### **Jim Fobert**



**James “Jim” J. Fobert, 71, of  
Moline, Ill., died peacefully on  
Nov. 5, 2025.**

Jim may have only played in one Senior Softball USA qualifier back in 2015, but his presence in the Quad City Senior Softball League and in his community spoke volumes.

“Jim managed the best A team in the [QCSS] league for several years and was their leadoff hitter,” said Jim Goff, president of the league. “He was inducted into the QCSSL Hall of Fame in 2015. We extend our deepest condolences to Jim’s family.”

“Jim enjoyed playing in the senior softball league... A devoted grandfather, he cherished the time spent cheering on his grandchildren in their various sports, including soccer, baseball, and softball,” according to his online obituary.

Outside of senior softball and family, he spent 30 years as a firefighter, with six years as Rock Island Fire Chief from 2010 to retirement in 2016, and president of the Illinois Association of Retired Firefighters. Before firefighting, he also drove ambulances.

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