



GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS INDUCTEE 1988

WILLIAM H. "CAP" BROWN was employed by the Birmingham Board of Education as basketball coach at Parker High School for 28 years. He was voted "Coach of the Year" in 1975 and 1976. His teams won a total of 720 basketball games. In February 1987, he was ranked No. 2 in the nation on the list of "High School Winningest Coaches." Under his tutelage, Parker High won state basketball championships in 1964, 1969, 1971 and 1975. Parker won the national championship in 1964. "Cap" is the only high school coach in the South to ever win a national championship.

He attended Tuskegee University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education and later a Master's Degree. He was a good student and a natural athlete. He was a four letterman at Tuskegee: quarterback in football, guard in basketball, shortstop in baseball and ran track in his spare time. He was rated All Southern Intercollegiate Athlete Conference for two years.

When he left the Army, "Cap" joined the Army Reserve and became a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry. The Army Reserve sent him to Adjutants General School, Physical Training School, Leadership School at West Point and Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. In 1978, he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel of the U.S. Army Reserve. "Cap" earned a Master of Science Degree in Traffic Safety by taking courses at the University of Montevallo and Alabama State University. He attended Aquatics School at Tennessee State University.

He played professional baseball with the Birmingham Black Barons, Indianapolis Clowns and the St. Louis Cardinals in the Florida State League. In 1958, he was chosen as the Florida Leagues' "Most Valuable Player," batting .333 with 50 stolen bases. In the following years, he went to spring training with the St. Louis Cardinals, but due to an injury, he never played in the "big leagues."

He has been responsible for many young athletes earning scholarships and an opportunity to further their education. Four of his baseball players made the major league: Lee May, the Cincinnati Reds; Carlos May (drafted #1) the Chicago White Sox; Alvin McGrew, (drafted #1) Cleveland Indians; and Edward Hause (drafted #2) Baltimore Orioles.

He passed away in 1996.