

2015 Wall of Fame Ceremony Honors Local Residents

This year's Wall of Fame ceremony was sponsored by the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation department and held at The Dr. Charles L. Sifford Golf Course and Revolution Park Sports Academy on Remount Road. There were three honorees: Walter Morgan (Golf), John T. Crawford (Contributor) and Anthony James (Track & Field).



Pictured in front of the Wall of Fame, from left to right: Walter Morgan, John T. Crawford and Anthony James

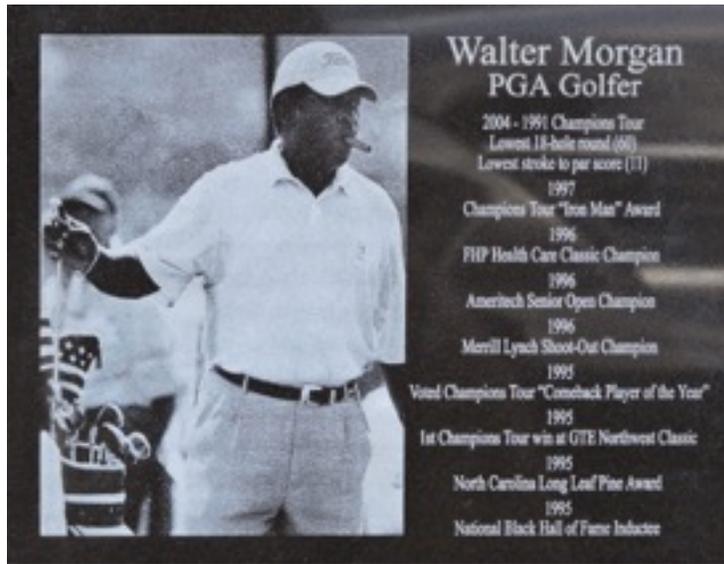
During the ceremony, each honoree was introduced by a friend, presented a plaque and their wall plaque was unveiled. Later, each honoree said a few words.

Walter Morgan

Walter Morgan shared his humble upbringing in Hattic, Ga. working in the cotton fields and actively pursuing an opportunity to join the Army, despite the U.S. being actively involved in Vietnam. Morgan went on to serve two tours in Vietnam.

Morgan also spoke of his relationship with Charles Sifford and mentioned Sifford calling him when he was selected to play on the PGA Tour. He said Sifford invited him to travel with him for tournaments in Florida. Morgan recalled learning a tremendous amount from Sifford: he gave him information about where to stay and eat in the segregated south and lots of useful information about golf course management. He summarized Sifford's advice in one phrase: "you gotta be smart," reminding him that a par is always better than a bogey.

Morgan also acknowledged several supporters including his wife, Geraldine, and others who were in attendance. Morgan thanked them and said he could not have done it without them.

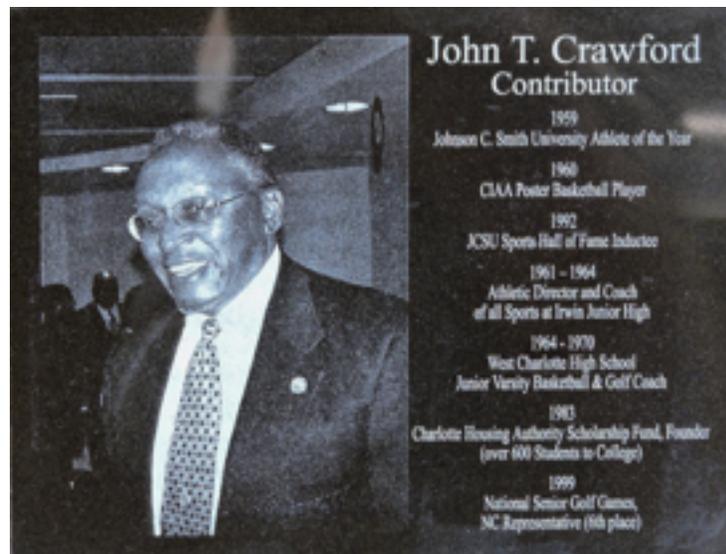


John T. Crawford

John T. Crawford said that receiving the award was a big honor and thanked God for all of his opportunities to serve. He talked about growing up on a farm in Rock Hill, S.C.

Crawford acknowledged his wife, daughter and young grandson, who were all in attendance. He also took the time to acknowledge former students and talked about how much seeing and helping them grow up to become honest, hardworking men meant to him.

Lastly, he talked passionately about "his dream," the scholarship fund he started to help poor kids from public housing in Charlotte. Crawford said how much he enjoyed helping them begin to understand that they could do greater things and talked about a few of their successes. He explained how most of them really took off once they were able to pursue their educations and life without the burden of poverty.



Anthony James

Anthony James thanked his parents, his brothers and sisters and shared that he was the youngest of 10 children. He talked about growing up modestly in Hartsfield, S.C. and about running track in high school. He credited his high school track coaches with making him tough. James acknowledged his college track coaches and thanked them for guiding him “in a positive direction” and not giving up on him when he was hurt.



The Wall of Fame idea grew out of the Mecklenburg County Consolidated Golf Advisory Council desire to become actively involved in a community project to preserve history. The original idea and plan was to recognize the accomplishments of golfers. The plan evolved into the commemoration and recognition of all sports and community achievements of Mecklenburg County and City of Charlotte residents.