

# National Wrestling Hall of Fame



TAKEDOWN SPORTSWEAR AND  
TAKEDOWN MARKETING  
WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE CLASS OF  
2016 NATIONAL WRESTLING HALL OF FAME.



Come and see all of the  
National Wrestling Hall of Fame exhibits  
and Georgia members at  
our new facility and new home  
for the Georgia Hall of Famers.

1675 LAKES PARKWAY • SUITE 109 • LAWRENCEVILLE, GA 30043



**GEORGIA STATE CHAPTER**  
2016 National Wrestling Hall of Fame Award Ceremony

## Program

*Master of Ceremonies*  
Garry Glenn

*Welcome and Opening Remarks*

*Presentation of Past Inductees and the Class of 2016*

*Invocation*  
Steve West

*-Dinner-*

*Medal of Courage*  
Sgt. Stefan Marc Smith (posthumous)  
Represented by Scooter Weathers

*Outstanding American*  
Rob Larmore

*Lifetime Service to Wrestling*  
Peter J. Fritts  
Michael J. Godlewski  
David Hartis  
Bill Hess  
Steve Lattizori

*Remarks*  
Randy Bortles  
National Medal of Courage Recipient

*Green Jacket Presentation*  
Krista Graff  
Director NWHOF State Chapter

*Closing Remarks*  
Jeff Wheeler

# National Wrestling Hall of Fame Georgia Chapter



**2016 Walt Hennebaul  
Memorial Golf Tournament**  
Northwood Country Club - Lawrenceville, GA  
Monday, July 11-Registration 11:00/Lunch  
12:00/Golf 1:00

All wrestling fans are encouraged to support the Georgia Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame by participating in our annual golf outing. Whether you're a scratch golfer or hacker (there are lots of us!), put a foursome together or we can put you in a group! If you don't golf, join us for a great lunch (\$25). Enjoy the day with your wrestling friends!

**Cost is \$500 per team or \$125 single (remember, you are financially supporting the Hall of Fame). If possible, try to register by July 1 but walk-ups are welcome!**

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Jeff Wheeler - 404-747-7113  
[wrestlinghofga@gmail.com](mailto:wrestlinghofga@gmail.com)

# Georgia Chapter Board of Directors

Errol Bisso  
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Stephen Clayton  
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Garry Glenn  
Brian Hage  
Bud Hennebaul  
Mike Miller  
Billy Saville  
Gary Schaefer  
Doug Thurmond  
Jeff Wheeler



Welcome!

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to welcome you to our 2016 Georgia Chapter banquet and induction ceremony. This year marks Georgia's 11th class of inductees into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame's State Chapter program.

This year the NWHOF is celebrating its 40th Anniversary as a cultural institution for the sport of wrestling in the United States. The Board of Governors is grateful to our State Chapter volunteer leaders in Georgia for representing our organization within your wrestling community, and for annually recognizing the heritage of our sport's most prominent legacy makers.

The individuals being honored here today are members of a great mission and legacy not just in their state, but in our sport. They are heroes to the people they have impacted through their work in the sport and beyond, and provide an inspiration to future generations. Their dedication, service, and leadership build and sustain our sport one individual, one program, and one community at a time.

Your state chapter and the honorees from the State of Georgia are truly inspirational in their efforts to help grow and fortify our sport and their communities.

On behalf of the Board of Governors of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, I want to congratulate the honorees being inducted today. Their names will soon appear in the newly renovated National Wrestling Hall of Fame & Museum's John T. Vaughan Hall of Honors in Stillwater, Oklahoma. We hope that each of you have the opportunity to visit the Hall of Fame with your family and friends.

In the spirit of preserving, honoring and recognizing.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee R. Smith".

Lee Roy Smith  
Executive Director, NWHOF

# 2016 National Wrestling Hall of Fame Inductees

## Medal of Courage

The Medal of Courage recipient is a wrestler or former wrestler who has overcome what appear to be insurmountable challenges, providing inspiration to others.

### Sgt. Stefan Smith (posthumous) - Medal of Courage



- 2008 graduate of LaGrange HS; 2X GHSA state placer (4th 2007, 3rd 2008); 2X Area champion; 2008 LaGrange Daily News "Wrestler of the Year"
- Police officer - Glennville, GA (2008-2009)
- Joined the US Army (Nov. 2009) fulfilling lifelong dream to serve his country; stationed at Ft. Stewart, GA (4th B Company 315 Infantry 4th Brigade 3rd ID)
- Killed by disguised insurgent bomber in Afghanistan on July 23, 2013
- Awarded numerous military awards and commendations including Bronze Star (awarded by the President of the United States), Purple Heart (posthumously), Army Achievement Medal, Army Combat Infantry Badge, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal and the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon.

## Outstanding American

The Outstanding American award is presented to individuals who have used the disciplines of the sport of wrestling to launch notable careers in other walks of life.

### Rob Larmore - Outstanding American



- 1985 Virginia High School State Champion (Kempsville HS) and USA Junior National All American coached by Keith Lowrance and Tim Spruill
- NCAA Division 1 All-American 1990 at William and Mary, 3x team captain, Voted Outstanding Senior Athlete at William and Mary; coached by Billy Pincus and Glenn Gormley
- Inducted into the William and Mary Athletic Hall of Fame 2000
- Economics teacher and wrestling coach at The Westminster Schools. Won state titles in 1991 and 1995. USA Wrestling Georgia Chapter and Georgia Athletic Coaches Association AAA Coach of the Year 1995. Wrestlers from his teams competed for Cornell University, The Naval Academy, Princeton University and Duke University.
- Community coach at Marist School 2011- present
- 2015 NWCA Dan Gable America Needs Wrestling Award recipient
- President and founding member of the Atlanta Chapter for Wrestlers in Business 2014 – present. With the extraordinary support of the board and the volunteers of Wrestlers in Business, Atlanta hosted the 2015 All Star Classic on November 1 and for the first time ever The Classic was aired live on ESPN. This event ultimately raised over \$60,000 for Wrestlers in Business and the NWCA.

## National Medal of Courage Randy Bortles



The Medal of Courage recipient is a wrestler or former wrestler who has overcome what appear to be insurmountable challenges, providing inspiration to others. Randy will receive the national Medal of Courage award at the NWHOF Honors Weekend in Stillwater, OK on June 3-4.

*Randy Bortles* became a quadriplegic from a motorcycle accident in 2002. The accident could have taken Bortles away from wrestling, but he refused to let that happen and many believe that he has done more for the sport since the accident than he did before it. Following the accident, Bortles worked five years as an assistant coach at Mountain View High School before turning his focus to helping other areas of wrestling. He headed the coalition to bring college wrestling back to Georgia, and has led the implementation of programs at Shorter University (NCAA DII), Emmanuel College (NCAA DII), Brewton Parker (NAIA), Life University (NAIA), and Truett-McConnell College (NAIA). He has also worked with the Atlanta Takedown Association to host the Georgia Intercollegiate tournament. He is active on numerous boards of organizations that are focused on the success of wrestling, and has also been a co-tournament director for the Team Georgia USA Wrestling State Championships, held annually on 32 mats in the Georgia Dome. Bortles wrestled at Phoenix High School in Phoenix, New York which is currently coached by Gene Mills, who was inducted as a Distinguished Member in 2000. Bortles went on to wrestle at Auburn Community College in Central New York and Brockport State University. He began his coaching career at Baldwinsville High School in Baldwinsville, New York, under Leo Johnson, who was named the National High School Wrestling Coach of the Year in 1980. Bortles moved to Georgia in 1981 and began coaching at Newnan High School in Newnan, Georgia. He then coached at McIntosh High School in Peachtree City, Georgia, and Wheeler High School in Marietta, Georgia. Georgia USA Wrestling hosted a team from New Zealand in the mid 1980's, and Bortles was asked to go to New Zealand to coach their national teams. Following a year in New Zealand, Bortles returned to Georgia and was a co-founder of the Metro Atlanta Wrestling Officials in 1994. He officiated Georgia High School Association events and NCAA meets, and continues to mentor the Metro Atlanta Wrestling Officials' 112 members. The Georgia Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame presented Bortles with its Medal of Courage award in 2005.

# National Wrestling Hall of Fame

## Georgia Chapter Inductees

(By Year Inducted)

2003  
 Dan Cathy  
 Mike Ellis  
 Pete Fritts, Sr.  
 Jack Keen  
 Dr. John Raber  
 Gad Soffer  
 Johnny Stallings

2004  
 Joseph Compton  
 Jim Glasser  
 Brian Hage  
 Walter Hennebaul, Jr.  
 Kyle Maynard  
 Gordon Pritz  
 Billy Saville

2005  
 Mel Ashcraft  
 Errol Bisso  
 Randy Bortles  
 Frank Keller  
 George Slayton  
 Clinton "Ken" Whidden  
 Ed Winterstein

2006  
 Lt. Noah Harris  
 Steve McDaniel  
 Paula McGahee  
 Larry Morgan  
 Andrew "Bud" Murray  
 Bill Venable

2007  
 Mike Coy  
 Thomas Edwards  
 James Mills  
 Steve Ranus  
 Brent Shiver  
 Paul White, Sr.

2008  
 Walter "Bud" Hennebaul  
 W. L. .Hughes, Jr.  
 Marty Hutsell  
 Tony Mills  
 Cliff Ramos  
 Jeff Wheeler

2009  
 Steve Day  
 Darryl Ellrot  
 Reggie Glaze  
 Gary Phillips  
 Dennis Stromie  
 Doug Thurmond  
 Steve West

2011  
 Jim Bailey  
 Randy Faires  
 Dennis Jackson  
 Ed Kanner  
 Gary Schaefer  
 Mickey Statham

2013  
 Bob Eddy  
 Jay Gassman  
 Rick Hennebaul  
 Gary Humphries  
 Nick Janoulis  
 John Galvelage

2014  
 Beasey Hendrix  
 Kirk Hoffman  
 Gary Jira  
 Paul Kite  
 David Landis  
 John McCrary  
 Brian Roberts  
 Rich Schumacher  
 Mark Trammell

2016  
 Peter J. Fritts  
 Mike Godlewski  
 David Hartis  
 Bell Hess  
 Rob Larmore  
 Steven Lattizori  
 Sgt. Stefan Smith

# 2016 National Wrestling Hall of Fame

## Inductees

### Lifetime Service to Wrestling

The Lifetime Service to Wrestling award is given in recognition of years of dedication to the development of leadership and citizenship in young people through the sport of wrestling.

### Pete Fritts - Lifetime Service to Wrestling



- 4X undefeated Georgia High School Association State Wrestling Champion at Woodward Academy; Wrestling USA Magazine's national "Dream Team" (1983); High School All-American (1982, 1983)
- 1989 Graduate of James Madison University (Harrisonburg, VA)
- 6 years as a wrestling official (GWOA); 6 years as varsity assistant at Woodward (1990-96); 17 years as head coach at Woodward (1997-2014)
- 468 dual meet wins in 17 years as head coach at Woodward Academy; 16 top ten Team Traditional finishes
- (7 top 4 finishes); 2013 AAA State Champions
- 22 Area Duals and Traditional Championships; - 12 Individual State Champions and 61 other place winners
- Coach both Chad and Chandler Pyke to 648 wins combined and 5 State titles. Chad holds the NFHS record for most wins in a 4 year career with 329.
- Charter member of the Woodward Academy Hall of Fame
- One of three Woodward Academy coaches to be elected to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

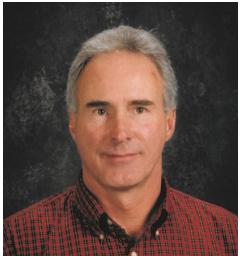
### Michael Godlewski - Lifetime Service to Wrestling



- Graduated from Briarcliff HS (coached by Sam Black); 3X GHSA state placewinner (1<sup>st</sup> – 1962, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 1961, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 1960); Captain of 1962 GHSA state champion team
- 1967 Graduate of University of Georgia; wrestled under Coach Avery Harville, 2X varsity letter winner; 2X runner-up in the SEIWC tournament;
- Coached at Columbia High School from 1967-1979; coached 4 GHSA state champion teams (1969, 1970, 1978, 1979); 2 - 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams; 2 - 4<sup>th</sup> place teams; 4X Georgia Athletic Coaches Association (GACA) Coach of the Year; 4X DeKalb County Takedown Club Coach of the Year; Induced into the Georgia Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame – 1988
- Wrestling Official – Received GHSA 50 Year Service Award ; served for 23 years as President and Booking Secretary for the Georgia Wrestling Officials Association (GWOA); 4X DeKalb County Official of the Year; recipient of the Gene Collier Award for outstanding Service to Officiating; 2X GACA Official of the Year
- Long time teacher, coach and administrator in DeKalb County School System with 30 years at Columbia HS, DeKalb Alternative HS, Henderson HS, Henderson MS and Stone Mountain MS

# 2016 National Wrestling Hall of Fame Inductees

## David Hartis—Lifetime Service to Wrestling



- 1975 graduate of University of Georgia; member of the UGA Judo Team
- 1st coaching job was as assistant to Robert Cooley at Chamblee High School, 1976 - 1980. GHSA State AAAA champions (1979)
- Head coach at Johnson High School, Gainesville, GA (1980 – 1987). Organized the 1st Hall County Duals Tournament; Won the Hall County tournament 3 times.
- Assistant coach at Johnson High School to Mitch McGhee and Doug Thurmond (1987-1994)
- Assistant coach at North Hall High School, Gainesville, GA; 1994 - 2011.

## Bill Hess—Lifetime Service to Wrestling



- 1963 graduate of Upper Iowa University (Fayette, IA); got start in wrestling as the director of the university's intramural wrestling tournament
- Started coaching wrestling at Prairie Jr. High, Cedar Rapids, IA in 1964
- Coach of 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade wrestling team at Fort Morgan Jr. High, Ft. Morgan, CO (1966-68)
- Started and coached youth programs (1972-84) in Crystal Lake YMCA (IL) and Grand Rapids, MI
- Director/volunteer coach for Wheeler HS junior program (1984-92); Instrumental in organizing the Cobb County Youth Wrestling League (1986).
- State Director for Team Georgia USA Wrestling (1985-1993), initiated summer training camps for Georgia teams; inducted into Team Georgia USA Wrestling Hall of Fame (1992)
- Part of organizing committee for the first State Games in Georgia (Peach State Games) – now called the Georgia State Games
- Part of committee that brought the Division 1 wrestling program to Georgia State University and recently to Reinhardt University (NAIA)

# 2016 National Wrestling Hall of Fame Inductees

## Steve Lattizori—Lifetime Service to Wrestling



- Connecticut State High School champion – 1980 (138 lbs)
- 1984 graduate of Springfield College (Springfield MA); 4 year competitor; 2x team captain
- Coached wrestling in Georgia for 32 years (1984-present); Pace Academy (5 years); Wheeler HS (13 years);
- Kell HS (14 years)
- Coached 20 GHSA state champions and 5 USA Wrestling All-Americans
- Co-Founder of the Cobb County Wrestling Association and the Cobb County Wrestling Hall of Fame
- 4x Georgia Athletic Coaches Association “Coach of the Year” (1987, 1991, 1992, 1994)
- 2x Teacher of the Year and 2x Georgia high school Physical Education “Teacher of the Year”