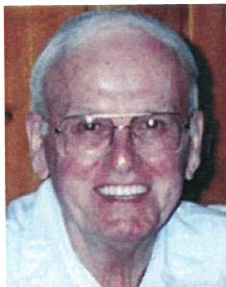


## ARLINGTON SPORTS HALL OF FAME

### 2017 INDUCTEE - JOHN MCLAUGHLIN



John E. "Mac" McLaughlin was born in Youngstown, Ohio. Mac was a twenty-year veteran of the Marine Corps. His first involvement with soccer came in the middle 1950s when, as a Marine, he participated on an All-Service soccer team that traveled around the Mediterranean and southern Europe pitting American military teams against local teams.

As a Marine, Mac participated in combat actions in Korea, Lebanon and Vietnam. He and his wife, Jackie, settled in Arlington in 1958. His first involvement with Arlington soccer came in 1973 when he coached an under-14 girls team for the Arledge Soccer Club. In 1975, Mac became vice president of the fledgling Arlington Soccer Association (ASA). The following year he was elected president of the ASA. In 1977, with the growth in the number of players and teams, the ASA Board of Directors selected Mac to work full time to manage the activities of the association as Executive Director, a position he held for the following 33 years.

In this position, Mac worked with the 12 member clubs to register players and create teams as well as allocate practice space and develop game schedules for the member clubs. He not only arranged to schedule referees from a local referee association but also trained youth referees from players in the ASA. Mac handled all of the ASA finances, including collecting player fees and, in turn, paying referees.

As the ASA progressed, more skilled soccer players were placed on "travel" teams that played against teams from other jurisdictions. Since the travel leagues dealt only with their member clubs, Mac assumed the responsibility for the Arlington travel teams. This led to an annual Thanksgiving tournament from 1980 to 1988 between the ASA and the travel teams, which was coordinated by Mac.

From 1977 to 2010, nothing happened in youth soccer in Arlington without Mac playing a vital part. From its small beginnings in the early 1970s with 24 teams and 500 players, youth soccer in Arlington grew to nearly 400 teams and almost 6,000 players by 2010. His service to youth soccer was recognized by his induction into the Arlington Soccer Association Hall of Fame and his receipt of the Virginia Youth Soccer Association's Exemplary Service Award. The Better Sports Club of Arlington named him Sportsman of the Year in 2009.

Mac McLaughlin passed away in 2015 at the age of 84.