

October 28, 2002

The Board of Control
Kentucky High School Athletic Association
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40505

Dear Board Members:

It is with great pride that I place the name of Gene Washington in to nomination for selection into the KHSAA Hall of Fame. I have known Gene since 1966 when he became a member of the Woodford County High School wrestling team. I was the Woodford County wrestling coach at that time. He was a member of the first three wrestling teams at Woodford County High School that laid the foundation for the great success that program has had over the years.

Gene became a KHSAA wrestling official after his high school graduation in 1969. His enthusiasm for the sport and his respect for the athletes and coaches were evident from the beginning. He rapidly became one of the better officials in the sport. Over the next sixteen-(16) years he and I worked every major high school tournament together, and I watched him grow into the most respected official in the state.

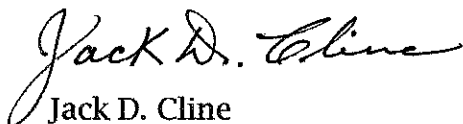
He was registered with the KHSAA for twenty-seven (27) years and worked twenty-two-(22) state wrestling tournaments in a row. The Kentucky High School Wrestling Coaches Association selected him "Official of the Year" five years in a row before he moved to Illinois as a store manager for Sears. I have no doubt that if he were still in Kentucky, he would be at the top of the officials list and still working the state wrestling tournament.

During the vast majority of his career, he was the only minority official in the sport of wrestling.

In my personal and professional opinion, he is the perfect candidate for induction in to the KHSAA Hall of Fame. His commitment to the KHSAA, the sport of wrestling, its athletes, and his fellow officials was of the highest caliber.

I respectfully request that Gene Washington be selected for induction in to the KHSAA Hall of Fame. I sincerely believe that you could not honor a more deserving person or sports official.

Sincerely,



Jack D. Cline
KHSAA Clinician and Rules Interpreter
State Wrestling Tournament Manager
Hall of Fame member (Class of 2000)

Accomplishments of the Career of Gene Washington

1. Registered KHSAA Official for 27 years
2. Officiated 22 straight state wrestling tournaments
3. Selected as the Kentucky Wrestling Coaches Association "Official of the Year" five years in a row.
4. Officiated every major invitational tournament in Kentucky during his career
5. Only minority official in wrestling registered with the KHSAA for more than 20 years
6. Trained young officials and conducted officials clinics throughout his career

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to support the nomination of Gene Washington to the Kentucky Hall Of Fame.

If anyone deserves this award, it has to be Gene Washington. His record speaks for itself. He has officiated wrestling in Kentucky for twenty-seven years. He has worked in twenty-two State Wrestling Tournaments. The Coaches Association picked him as the best wrestling official in Kentucky for five straight years. A lot of this officiating was done while he was working as a management person for Sears. The last year he officiated in Kentucky was done while he lived in Danville, Illinois. Every weekend he drove to Kentucky to officiate at the wrestling matches. All of this is just records and numbers. I want to tell you about the man, Gene Washington, that I know and have come to respect.

First, above all else, Gene is a great human being. A person who was always concerned for the well being of the young men he dealt with. Back in the early 70's and 80's when I took my wrestling team to a wrestling tournament , I was always relieved to see Gene as an official when I arrived. Not because I expected any favors, but because I knew he would be a fair official who would be consistent and fair throughout the tournament. That's all any coach could want for his team.

Gene is an individual who gave far more to wrestling than he received in return. People all over Kentucky respect Gene as a fine official, a great person' and as a person who represented himself and the state of Kentucky in a manner that anyone would be proud to say, as I am, that he is a true gentleman.

Gene Washington is my friend. I am proud to know him and honored to support his nomination to the Kentucky Hall Of Fame---“ He Belongs There.”

Sincerely,



Scott Brewer

Lafayette High School

Wrestling Coach for thirty Years. Now retired.

KHSAA Hall of fame committee

Ref: Gene Washington

Dear board of control, I am writing to support Gene Washington as a nominee for the hall of fame. I have worked 18 state tournaments with Gene and also a lot of UK tri matches in the NCAA. I must say that as an official Gene carried himself in the most professional manner that allot of coaches would get frustrated because they could not get to him and make him mad as they like to do. Gene was always there for the kids on the mat and even off the mat he was a mentor to thousands over the years. Always helping out with not only the rules but more so the technique and skills that he learned as a wrestler

in Woodford co. Gene worked as allot of us did many long hours and and traveled many miles to support the wrestling in the state of Ky. Many times for no money, just for the love of the sport. I have met many officials over the years from all across the country when I served two terms on the national rules committee for the National Federation And traveled the US working the NCAA and I can proudly say that Gene was one of the best officials to work with not only on the mat but also as a person off the mat. Please consider him for a spot in the hall off fame, he really deserves it for the commitment he showed for the sport of Wrestling. Thank you very much.

Don Salyers

To Whom It May Concern

Please accept this letter as my personal and professional recommendation for Mr. Gene Washington for induction into the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

I have known Gene Washington for over 35 years when I was coaching at Trinity High School and Gene was a wrestler at Woodford County High School and later as an official. Throughout the years, I have known Gene to be a vital and vibrant supporter of Kentucky High School athletics and in particular wrestling.

His career as a referee of the State Wrestling Tournament speaks volumes to support his involvement in the positive growth of Kentucky's young people. For many years, I have seen Gene work as a referee at the state wrestling tournament and I continue to be proud of his efforts and his unsung accomplishments.

To me, induction into the hall of fame is reserved for those who have selflessly supported and who have been actively involved in the promotion of high school youth and their participation in the program. It is reserved for those who, year after year, commit to excellence in their own performance and that of the KHSAA. It is reserved to those who commit to their own ongoing personal and professional development and to the training of young men who will follow in their footsteps. It is reserved for those who are willing to serve as a role model in fair play and hard work. It is reserved for those who have dedicated themselves to the growth of the KHSAA during the good times and the lean. To me, it is reserved for those like Gene Washington.

Sincerely,

James R. Frame
Executive Director
Catholic School Athletic Association
Louisville, KY

----- Original Message -----

From: Carr, Joe <jcarr@woodford.k12.ky.us>
To: <jjcline@prodigy.net>
Cc: Parks, Rusty <rparks@woodford.k12.ky.us>
Sent: Sunday, October 27, 2002 8:04 PM
Subject: Gene Washington Hall of Fame

> From: Joe Carr
> To: KHSAA board of Control
> Subject: Hall of Fame Gene Washington

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Dear Selection Committee,

This letter is in support of Gene Washington's nomination for the KHSAA Hall of Fame. Gene was a Kentucky registered official for 27 years. He officiated 22 straight state wrestling championships and was voted the coach's association top official 5 years in a row. Gene was one of the very first members of the Woodford County wrestling program, which is now the most celebrated in the state of Kentucky. In my 25 years as a wrestling coach (3 years at U of K and 22 at Woodford County High), Gene's professionalism and personal characteristics are above reproach. His consistency and knowledge of the rules of wrestling gained the respect of wrestlers, coaches, and officials throughout the state.

I am convinced that Gene Washington should be a member of the KHSAA Hall of Fame because of over a quarter century of service, his professionalism, the respect of his peers, and his awards of achievement. I urge you to seriously consider Gene Washington as candidate for the Hall of Fame.

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> Sincerely,
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> Joe Carr Wrestling coach,
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> Joe Carr
> Athletic Director
> Woodford County High School

jjcline

From: Carr, Joe <jcarr@woodford.k12.ky.us>
To: <jjcline@prodigy.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2002 8:55 AM
Subject: Eugene Washington

To: KHSAA Selection Committee
From: Rusty Parks
Subject: Eugene Washington

Dear Selection Committee,

Eugene Washington was a wrestling official in Kentucky for 27 years. In my years of coaching at Woodford Co. High School I can honestly say Mr. Washington was the best official that I have ever witnessed, and our teams travel out of state.

Eugene worked 22 consecutive State Tournaments when the Kentucky Wrestling Coaches Association started naming an outstanding referee award, Mr. Washington received it for its first 5 years.

Eugene was always officiating at the biggest matches or tournaments each weekend. At Woodford Co. we host the largest Invitational Tournament in Kentucky and Eugene was our head official as he was at our State Dual Meet Tournament put on by our Wrestling Coaches Association.

Mr. Washington's knowledge of the sport and his fluidness on the mat made him enjoyable to watch. I found him to be very professional while dealing with coaches and contestants and very much liked by all.

In closing, I feel Eugene Washington is very deserving of the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Rusty Parks

Wrestling Coach

Woodford Co. H.S.

10/29/02

BOARD OF CONTROL
KHSAA
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

DEAR SIRs:

I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE MY SUPPORT TO THE
NOMINATION OF GENE WASHINGTON TO THE
DAWAHARES HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME.

I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING ON THE MAT WITH
GENE FOR MORE THAN 22 YEARS IN THE STATE
TOURNAMENT, AND GENE WAS ALWAYS RECOGNIZED
AS ONE OF TOP OFFICIALS. HE WAS ALSO NAMED THE
COACHES ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR FIVE
TIMES IN SUCCESSION.

I KNOW GENE TO BE A FIRST CLASS INDIVIDUAL AND
WOULD CERTAINLY BE A VERY WORTHY ADDITION TO
THE HALL OF FAME. I KNOW THAT IT WOULD BE AN
HONOR TO HAVE HIS NAME ALONG SIDE MINE IN THIS
VERY DISTINGUISHED ASSOCIATION.

SINCERELY YOURS,

GARY INGRAHAM
WRESTLING OFFICIAL
HALL OF FAME CLASS 2000

Sheeryl Morris
270 782-0903



SECTION II MEETING

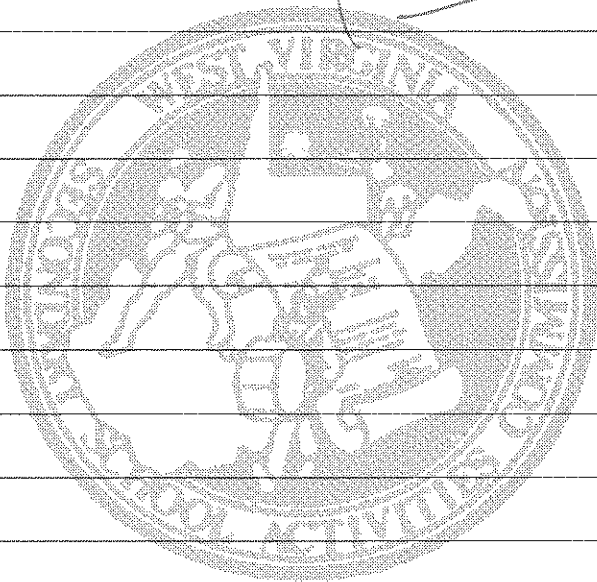
Eugene Washington

① (217) 443-9040 - Eugene Washington

②
③ 477 4572

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Biography of Gene Washington, wrestling official

Was a member of the first wrestling program at Woodford County High School.

Started refereeing after graduation in 1969.

Officiated for 27 years in the state of Kentucky doing matches, tournaments, District and Regionals and 22 consecutive state tournaments, receiving the Official of the Year Award 5 consecutive years(from the coaches) and was voted Outstanding Wrestling Referee in the State by the KHSAA and was presented a plaque and a clock by Louis Stout.

After relocating in Illinois, refereed in both Indiana and Illinois from 1996 through 2001.



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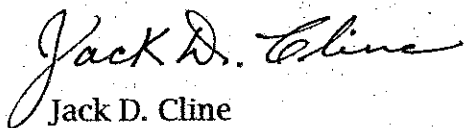
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