2016 INDUCTEE —

GARY PILLING

ARY GRADUATED FROM WALKER HIGH SCHOOL IN 1975 WHERE HE SERVED AS ONE OF THE

captains of the football team. Gary, who is a life-long Jasper resident, played competitive tennis from the seventh grade until he graduated. He was a very successful tennis player at Walker. He then attended Walker College, Auburn and UAB where he received a degree in Biological Science. The entire time he was attending college, he worked for the Parks and Recreation Department, then became the Assistant Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Jasper under Coach James Fowler. He also served as the Director of the Tennis Department in Jasper. Gary accepted a coaching position at Walker High School in 1983. He coached football and baseball for the Vikings until 1990 when he took over as the tennis coach.



He took a good tennis program and turned it into a great program making it competitive at the state level. Things really changed in 1999 when he won four Alabama State Championships, three in a row. He won state championships in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2003. In honor of his accomplishments on the state level, he was selected as the National High School Coaches Association - Tennis Coach of the Year in 2001. This is the only time in history that this honor has been bestowed on a coach from Walker County.

After Gary retired from the public school system, he accepted a teaching and coaching position at Sumiton Christian High School where he is currently employed.

Gary is married to the former Marcie Murlock and they have two children Megan and Nick and three grandchildren.