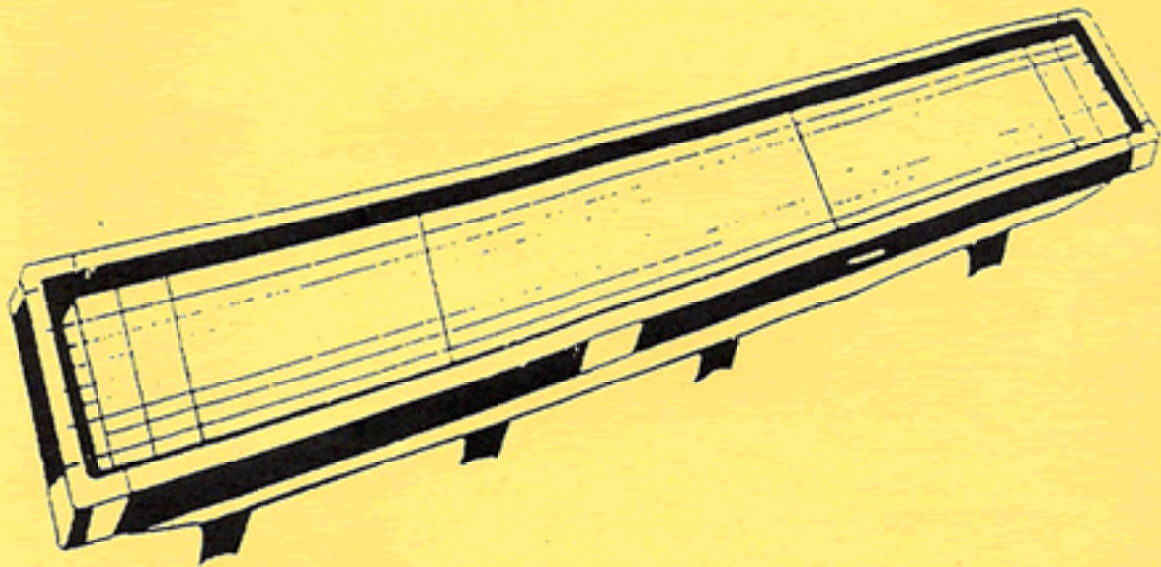


Induction Ceremony
for

**Deb Voorhis
and
Mary Brown**

into the

**Indiana Shuffleboard
Hall of Fame**



Hall of Fame Tournament
GI's Town Tavern
Summitville, Indiana
June 10, 2006

Mary Brown

In 1979, Mary Brown went to Deer Park Tavern one night to watch Bud & Sharon Esterline play shuffleboard. It was the first time she had ever seen a board and the first time she saw Larry Brown. She was immediately drawn to both. She and Larry began dating and she started working at the bar with him. It gave her an opportunity to watch the game. The locals encouraged her to begin throwing weights and began to play every day. She watched Larry and Bud play in tournaments and it looked like a lot of fun, but also difficult and stressful at the same time. Mary went to most of the Bourbon Spring and Fall tournaments after she got off work and would watch the finals and of course, buy a shirt. About late 80's early 90's, Mary played in the IN State Mixed (DJ's in Warsaw) and a few other very small tournaments.

Mary describes her first major tournament:

"My first big one was at Bourbon. Larry had no partner so he said we could play. It was really scary because we had to play Koontz & Kinsey. Koontz said I really needed to stop shaking or I was going to dent the board! I have no idea who else we played that day but I was hooked. Since then, I play in the IN State Tournament every year and many more. Thanks to Larry Huffer's example, we began to travel out of state. He started us going to Vegas and now we make Reno, OKC, Michigan, Ohio and Missouri tournaments regularly."

Mary says she has had a lot of great partners and wins including her first win, a mixed doubles with Larry at Lucky's in North Webster. She won the IN State Ladies Singles in 1995, the State Mixed Doubles with Larry in 1997, and a Bourbon Mixed with Mike Johnson in 1998. Freddie Thuman was fortunate enough to draw and win with Mary in Reno in 2001 and Bill Melton had the same luck in OKC in 2004. There are other wins, too numerous to mention, but Mary says "The best win was with Debby V @ the Bourbon Spring Doubles in 2001 and the most fun money spot was a 3rd with Sheryl Cockerill in Houston, Missouri's Ladies tournament."

Mary and Larry have been married 24 years, and have three "kitten" kids, Betsy, Lilly and Pooh. Mary is also very close to her Dad, Jim who will be 90 this year, her sister and brother-in-law Beverly and Jim English and her nephews Jim & wife Tracy and Scott English.

Deb Voorhis

Deb started playing shuffleboard in 1982, at the American Bar in her home town of Portland, Indiana. And it was there that she first met Bobby V. She was out celebrating her 25th birthday with her girlfriends. Bob says the only reason she even noticed him was because he had just won a tournament and had \$100.00 bills hanging out of every pocket. From then on they dated and Deb started spending time at the Palace Bar in Fairmount, Indiana.

Deb says, " There I met several female shuffleboard players, including Bobby's sister, Marisa. The girls asked if I would talk to Bob about sponsoring a ladies team in the Grant County Ladies Shuffleboard League. He did, and the Place Bar Ladies Team won the league six years in a row. Then the ladies league folded. I continued to play in the Grant County Men's League and also in the Central Indiana League, where the American Bar and the Place Bar were members."

She learned a lot about the game by playing in the leagues. And she learned even more by watching Bobby V play. "Bob has been a great mentor and a great partner, not to mention a great husband. We were in Las Vegas for a tournament and after much coaxing by friends, we were married at a small chapel on January 21, 1990." So began a great partnership.

Among Deb's accomplishments are: 1st place Ladies Singles at The Board Talk Tournament, several Indiana State Tournaments, and some Michigan State Tournaments. She has several 1st place finishes in both Mixed Doubles and Open Doubles in many tournaments in both Indiana and Michigan, including the IN State Tournament. In 1994's IN State Tourney, De had 1st place finishes in the Open Doubles, Mixed Doubles, and Ladies Singles. Probably the win with the biggest payout was as a member of an eight person team in Las Vegas.

She notes, "Two of my most memorable wins in Open Doubles were with female partners. Cheryl Collins and I, @ the Lakeside Lounge in Lake Orion, MI, beat John McDermott and Lee Mc Donald along the way, and Mary Brown and I, at the Bourbon Legion beat Bobby V and Rick Royal in the finals."

Deb says, "Shuffleboard has been very, very good to me and I've made some great friends along the way."

Her loving family includes her parents, her brother and sister-in-law, four nieces, a nephew, three great nieces & a great nephew.

I have known Deb for quite sometime. I first met her in the early 90's when the Las Vegas tournaments were the biggest and best going on. Deb has since become a good friend and I look forward to visiting with her and Bobby each year when I travel to Indiana to be with my mother. I have played against Deb and I'm here to tell you that she is very well schooled at the game. Deb is a competitor and one welcome lady to have as your partner. She is one heck of a nice person and I am blessed to have her as a friend.

Congratulations Deb on your well deserved induction. I am looking forward to celebrating this great occasion with your at a later date. I want to thank you for all you have done for me and for being a good friend.

I first got to know Mary when she and Larry came out to California for a tournament at the Dixie Belle, (shuffleboard heaven as we all knew it). Mary is not only a great player and supporter of our sport, but she is also one of the sweetest people one will ever meet. Much sweeter than her husband (excuse me, but I just could not say, "her better half", because it just didn't sound appropriate). If there is ever an award for patience, Mary would be most deserving. I don't know how she does it tournament in and tournament out. She has to have nerves of steel. If you look up the definition of patience you will find Mary: "The state or quality of being patient; the power of suffering with fortitude; uncomplaining endurance of evils or wrongs....." Now that has to be Mary, right? She must have patience to endure the load of Larry. Sorry, Larry (my good friend), I just call them the way I see them!

Mary, your induction into the Indiana Shuffleboard Hall of Fame is well deserved and I look forward to seeing you and Larry soon. I leave you with this thought; if you drink just one-eighth of what Larry drinks today, I promise you happiness. Congratulations!

Jim Martin, Winchester, CA

Mary Brown is a marvelous shuffleboard player and a very good sportsman. She is an asset to the game, a wonderful player, and friend to all. We wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

Deb Voorhis is a joy to watch.....also a good sportsman, and a wonderful player. She, too, is a friend to all. We also wish her the best of luck in the future in whatever she does.

Don Stallworth and Georganna Brand, Medford, OR

I can't think of anyone more deserving than Debbie Voorhis and Mary Brown to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. These two have played in many a tournament across this country and are two of the best ladies to ever play the game. Congratulations Deb and Mary.

Paul Weber, California

Congrats to both of ya'll. Not only are you both great players, but great people and deserve this award!!!

Love ya both, Debbie Bowers, Austin, TX

Debbie & Mary,
How proud and excited we are to learn the two of you are being inducted into the IN Hall of Fame. Your contributions and achievements to the game will be hard for others to match, man or woman. You are both polite and respectful players in your wins & losses. You each are great players individually and we have also witnessed you play some awesome matches as a doubles team. This is a well deserved tribute and honor for you both. "Atta boy, girls"!!! Congratulations!!

Dan Hitt & Melody Marine, Spokane, WA

Mary and Deb deserve the honor of being the first women inducted into the INHOF! With their commitment to the game and desire to win, they are inspirations to all players.

My friends, it's been a pleasure to play with and against you. (OK, more fun with!) Congratulations and love to you both.

Pam Dowell, Mentone, IN

Debbie and Mary, I want you girls to know I will be thinking of you on this day. I am so glad I have had the opportunity to become friends with the both of you. I enjoy playing shuffleboard with you girls, BUT not against you. Keep up the good work and I also hope to be there (@ your level) some day.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Sandy Tubbs, Kansas City, MO

Mary and Debbie-- Congratulations on your well-deserved Indiana HOF induction award -- two top notch players and great promoters of the game. Wish we could be there to celebrate this wonderful occasion with you.

You both (and your spouses) have been good friends for years. I recall the fun time we had when in Houston, MO at the Ladies Tournament - what a great time all us ladies had (and the men too) and we've got great pictures of that weekend to cherish forever.

Again, you both (and your spouses) supported the 3 years of the Board Talk Open. Mary, you really worked hard at the BTO 2003 In Vegas volunteering to do shirt sales and anything/everything you could do to help with all the things that make a successful tournament.

You are both not only long-time promoters/supporters of the game in Indiana, but across the country from Indiana to Texas (N-S) and from Nevada to Oklahoma (E-W). You are both always there for a friend in need, very caring individuals, and you are both loved and respected by many across the US!

Your friends forever, Tom & Lynda French, Austin, TX

IN Hall of Fame Inductees

Emmett Wilcox
Jim Long
Larry Creakbaum
Charlie Thompson
Steve Hart
Skip Jackson
Doc Slabaugh
Larry Paxton
Jim DeWitt
Bobby Voorhis
Les White
Glen Ingram
Terry Dowell
Larry Brown
Deb Voorhis
Mary Brown