

June 2020

USA SOFTBALL OF MICHIGAN



of Michigan

Blues Across Michigan Newsletter

Umpire

Spotlight:

Don Button

Charlie Roberts

USA Softball of Michigan Blues Across Michigan wants to recognize multiple USA Softball Umpires from the USA Softball of Michigan program every month for their accomplishments on the field in the local area, state or national championships as well as how they have given back to the game off the field.

Being recognized does not always relate to the number of national or state championships an umpire has participated in. This honor encompasses an umpire's accomplishments, both on and off the field, in their local area and district in addition to their contributions at the state or national level.

These umpires represent what being a member of the USA Softball of Michigan umpire family is all about and bring attention to the widespread and diverse umpire community in our program across the state.

For June, we are recognizing Don Button from District 14, and Charlie Roberts from District 2 who recently passed away.



Don Button is a staple of the Port Huron modified and slow pitch leagues. Don starting umpiring in 1981 and is still going strong today.

Don registered with ASA in 1981 doing mostly league games in the Port Huron area. As he fine tuned his craft of umpiring there were calls to do tournament games. Don was assigned to many state tournaments in Port Huron, Saginaw, Midland, and Bay City.

His career was capped off when he was assigned to a Modified National Tournament in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Don credits his successes to his mentors of Roger Vargo, Tom Ridas, Ted Germain, Bill Toles, Bob Studer, and Jack Sauder.

During the last few years, Don has cut back on his umpiring in the modified and slow pitch leagues, but is still going strong umpiring softball for the MHSAA.

Port Huron is very happy to have a dependable umpire like Don still umpiring when possible.

Congratulations Don for being selected as our June Blues Across Michigan honoree.



Don Button



Charlie Roberts

Charlie Roberts passed away on May 8th. Charlie had been involved as an Umpire for USA Softball and High School for over 40 years. He even had the chance to umpire a game that Derek Jeter participated in while Derek was at Kalamazoo Central High School.

It didn't matter what level the game was Charlie enjoyed them all. He was good natured and his passion for the game showed through by his easy-going attitude on the field. He tried to make the game the way it was supposed to be, by having fun. The game was not about Charlie, it was about the players.

Charlie accepted the role as District 2 Umpire in Chief for a few years until he wanted to spend more time with his wife of 63 years Judith, and their Grandkids.

His laughter and ever-present smile will be missed but he won't be forgotten as his house overlooks one of the fields in Portage.

As former Deputy State UIC Ron Welch said, "Charlie was one of the good guys."



A tribute to Charlie from District 2 Umpires Ron Beebe and Bill Louthan.