

**Keith Fulcher**  
765 Cedar Crossing  
Hernando, Mississippi 38632

August 29, 2024

Mr. Bill Blackwell  
Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame  
1152 Lakeland Drive  
Jackson, Mississippi 39216

Dear Bill and Sports Hall of Fame Selection Committee:

Please accept this letter of support for the induction of Mr. Ronnie Mayers into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. There is no more deserving person than Ronnie who has been a lifelong advocate of athletics and physical fitness in the state of Mississippi with an international reach.

I spent 27 years in Cleveland, Mississippi, as a student and employee of Delta State University. The impact Ronnie's vision for Delta State University becoming a swimming and diving national powerhouse is evident in the achievements and awards that are well documented in his resume. What I have been most impressed with is how his vision put Cleveland, Delta State University, and Mississippi on the map as the center of the universe in competitive swimming.

Most importantly, I have witnessed the lives of elementary, middle, and high school children positively impacted thanks to Ronnie's determination to create a world-class facility and swimming program that extended to children living hours from Cleveland and all across Mississippi. Professional sports accomplishments are impressive. But I place a higher value on what Ronnie has made happen that benefited thousands of youths who were given a choice of a sport like swimming that was highly inclusive of all athletic abilities and that allowed numerous high schools in Mississippi to form a swim team.

An example of Ronnie's commitment to bringing the world of swimming to those most in need is worth mentioning. I witnessed a young male college student Ronnie had in his swim class who was confined to a wheelchair, could not use his hands due to being contorted, and barely had use of one leg. Ronnie raised the money to equip Delta State University Natatorium with a lift that enabled handicapped to have access to the pool. Ronnie not only taught the handicapped young man to float and swim, his patience and loving style of coaching inspired several African American females to learn to swim after they saw their handicapped classmate conquer his fear. They remarked to me, "If John can learn to swim, we can too."

That's when I realized that Ronnie's legacy and life's accomplishment went beyond the banners hanging in the Natatorium. His accomplishments lived on in the bodies, hearts, and minds of the youth whose lives he touched.

Sincerely,

