

September 3, 2024

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

Dear Mr. Blackwell,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Ronnie Mayers as a recommendation to the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. I met Ronnie when I joined the Delta Aquatics Club in 1977. As a shy fifteen-year-old who knew nothing about competitive swimming, I really wasn't sure what to expect. Ronnie took me in, taught me all the strokes, and encouraged me to be the best that I could be. I was never more than an average swimmer, but he made me feel as if I could conquer the world. The skills and confidence I learned through this experience impacted my life and made me who I am today.

The Delta Aquatics Club, formed by Ronnie in 1974, gave me and other youth the opportunity to compete in swimming for the first time ever. Our team not only grew in number, but in knowledge, skills, discipline, and confidence. Fast forward 20 years, and my daughter competed on this same team, reaping the benefits of Ronnie's commitment to the youth of our community many years before. Today, I have two grandchildren in competitive swimming right here in Cleveland, Mississippi, thanks to Ronnie Mayers and his dedication to the sport of swimming.

Swimming is now an important part of this community due to Ronnie's vision back in the early 1970's. Of course, this was only the beginning for Ronnie Mayers. He went from being Head Coach of Delta Aquatic Club to becoming the Aquatic Director of Delta State University, Head Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Coach, and Athletic Director at Delta State University. He was also instrumental in getting the new natatorium built which now bears his name.

Ronnie's importance in this region cannot be measured. Countless swimmers have been impacted by Ronnie Mayers and his mark is evident throughout the state of Mississippi and beyond. Ronnie is deserving to be inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. His lifelong dedication to swimming in this state, his vision for the future, and his continual desire to make a difference are what make him so deserving of this honor. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sandy Speakes Huerta  
Former Delta Aquatic Club Member