

**The
California
Shuffleboard
Hall of Fame**



and **The
National
Shuffleboard
Hall of Fame**

**Induction Ceremony
for
Billy Chiles**

July 4, 1998

**at The Dixie Belle
Downey, California**

BILLY CHILES

by his wife, Chris

In the Beginning . . .

Billy Chiles was born in the little town of Terrell, Texas, December 15, 1939.

He became a housepainter like his father. After he entered the service, he took up boxing, he said, so he would have some extra perks. He was a veteran of the Viet Nam war.

During his lifetime, he tried many different things, many in the arts, such as leathercraft, jewelry design, and beadwork. He even tried his hand at raising birds.

His Shuffleboard Career Began . . .

Billy Chiles used to hang around with his older brother Jerry and his friends. Earl Lukins remembers that at that time, the bars in San Bernardino had only shuffleboards, while he preferred pool tables. Most of the guys had probably learned shuffleboard from a guy named Swifty at the Knothole.

Earl says he spent two weeks playing with Billy, practicing, before they played against Al Meade and Tommy Workman. They didn't win, but it was close and Bill delighted in the thrill of it. From then on, he would always play shuffleboard and loved traveling to do it.

At the time I met Bill, he was headed for a tournament. It was December of '67. Not long after, I also met Gerald Gregory, one of Billy's closest friends at that time. The word was out, no one wanted to play board against Gerald because he was such a good player. The

first games I ever saw were at the Headhunters in Fontana, possibly in '67.

It doesn't take long to realize how impossible it is to list the places Bill played and the numerous wonderful friends he made from the very beginning.

The Days Between . . .

Our son, Eric, was born in November of 1969, and our daughter Lauren was born in August of 1979.

Most of Bill's days between the 60's and his very last were wonderfully full with the help of shuffleboard. Certainly there are hundreds of people he called "friend" and they know who they are.

What a Long Trip It's Been . . .

The last few years Bill's health limited his travels, so he started recruiting local players, old and new. Plus he had some involvement with supplying boards, repair and supplies.

On his last day, even though he was exhausted, he made his local run.

It seems like he was just here. We miss him very much.

We know the shuffleboard world misses him, because he loved it so, and it gave him all kinds of support.

Thank you,
Chris Chiles

Billy Chiles'

- 1979 1st Place Doubles, Billy Chiles & Galen Gaunch
The Black Cat, Portland, OR.
- Aug 1984 2nd Place Billy Chiles & A.Z. Turnbo.
USSA Pro Am Doubles, the Showboat, Las Vegas NV
- Oct. 1984 1st - Ted Z, 2nd - Billy Chiles, 3rd - Ron Cash
1st Annual Fall Tournament, Edgewood, Bellflower CA
- Aug 1985 1st Place Singles, Billy Chiles
One Grand Shootout, The Shelter, Placentia, CA
- Nov 1985 1st Place Singles, Billy Chiles
1st Place Doubles, Billy Chiles & Bill Maxwell
Stagger Inn Thanksgiving Tourney , Bellflower CA
- 1985 1st Place Doubles, Billy Chiles & Mickey Mikens
Philadelphia, PA
- June 1986 1st Place - Eric Waldman, 2nd - Billy Chiles
Memorial Day Tournament, Marysville CA
- June 1987 2nd Place - Billy Chiles & Glen Davidson
Michigan Playfair Open, Dearborn MI
- July 1987 2nd Place Singles - Billy Chiles
1st Place Doubles - Billy Chiles & Bill Maxwell
Ted Z's, Temecula, CA
- Nov 1987 2nd Place Singles - Billy Chiles
The Edgewood, Bellflower CA
- April 1988 3rd Place Doubles - Billy Chiles & Bill Maxwell
Ted Z's, Temecula, CA

Achievements

- Aug. 1988 1st Place Doubles - Billy Chiles & Sparky Sparkman
Amato's in Huntington Beach CA
- Jan 1989 1st Place Doubles - Billy Chiles & Bobby Voorhis
P.C.S.A. Extravaganza, Las Vegas CA
- July 1989 3rd Place Doubles - Billy Chiles & Greg McFarland
Ted Z's, Temecula CA
- 1990 2nd Place Doubles - Billy Chiles & Bill Maxwell
True Round Robin, Ted Z's, Temecula CA
- Jan 1993 1st Place - Billy Chiles & Bellflower Bruce Hale
50 & Over Legends, Ted Z's, Temecula CA
- Nov 1993 1st Place Doubles - Billy Chiles & Rick Boyer
1st Place ABC Draw Team Event was won by: Billy
Chiles, Dot Bastenbury & Pearl Minard.
1st Annual Thanksgiving Tourney, Dixie Belle, Downey
- Feb 1994 3rd Place Doubles - Billy Chiles & Rich Warren
PCSA Extravaganza, Las Vegas NV
- July 1994 2nd Place Doubles - Billy Chiles & Rich Warren
Dixie Belle, Downey CA
- Aug 1994 4-Person Team Event - Billy Chiles, Jim Kennedy, John
Fisher & Ruth Miles
10th Annual BoardTalk Shufflers Reunion Tournament
in Quilcene WA
- July 1995 2nd Place Doubles - Billy Chiles & Rich Warren
Dixie Belle CA
- Nov 1995 1st Place Doubles - Billy Chiles & Larry Pearson
Thanksgiving Tourney, Dixie Belle CA

THE BOARD TALK

George & Donna Wilber, Publishers
503 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, MI 48906
Phone: 517-484-4976 or 517-371-2538

June 5, 1998

We are honored to add our endorsement of the induction of Billy Chiles into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Not only was he one of the most talented players we've ever had the pleasure of watching, he was also a very special person. In appearance and demeanor, he reminded us of Jesus — and that's about the greatest compliment you can pay to anyone!

Although he was soft-spoken, when he did speak, we listened and learned from his shuffleboard experiences and his philosophy of life. Our only regret is that we didn't have the opportunity to visit with him more often and record the many stories he had to tell of the past and his dreams for the future of shuffleboard.

Billy was a gentle, compassionate, caring human being. At the many tournaments where we had the pleasure of seeing him, he was always willing to share his expertise and help in any way he could. For this, he neither wanted nor needed any fanfare — just quietly and effectively did his job.

In summary, we believe we are better people because Billy Chiles crossed our paths and traveled along life's highway with us for a little while.

Sincerely,

George & Donna Wilber

Publishers

THE BOARD TALK

My Friend Billy

The first time I met Billy Chiles was in the early sixties. He was on a run up through the Northwest. I played him at the 48th Street Tavern in Tacoma. Billy was as skinny as a rail and a quiet man even back then. I don't think I have ever heard him raise his voice. He didn't have to.

When Billy came to the Northwest he came to play, and that he did. Billy was one of the best rail shooters I had ever seen back then. After playing him all day, I found out I had a lot to learn about shuffleboard. Billy was a great player.

In one issue of *The Board Talk* he was said to be a kind, gentle, giving man, and I couldn't agree more. When my wife, Michelle, met Billy they were talking and she asked Billy to tell her about himself. His reply was, "I am a quiet and simple man." That is a direct quote. No one deserves to be in the Hall of Fame more than Billy Chiles.

Rest in Peace, Old Friend,

—Jim Foran

Billy Chiles and I were casual acquaintances for several years, however, I didn't really get to know him until a couple of years ago. I was having lunch at the Dixie Belle when he asked if he could join me. We ended up talking about life and shuffleboard for over 3 hours. I realized that this kind and gentle man had a vast knowledge of the game and a great business sense.

After that day, I had several opportunities to spend time with Billy. He was always willing to share his knowledge and expertise with me. Not only was he a gentleman, a great player and ambassador, his philosophy and mental aspects of the shuffleboard game were amazing.

Thank you Billy Chiles, for touching our lives!

—Rick & Kathy Thomas

Billy's Friends share their Memories

I met Billy in the early sixties. He was a skinny, clean-shaven kid. His mentor was Gerry Gregory. Gerry passed away at an early age, but I know Billy would want to share a part of this honor with him.

—*Jolene Lembke*

I think they broke the mold when Billy Chiles was made. He was unique in his outlook on life and his love for the game of shuffleboard. His induction into the California and National Shuffleboard Halls of Fame is well deserved. He will be missed by his peers, but also he will be missed by me, as a true friend and great player.

—*Paul Weber*

I have known Billy for at least 30 years. I never saw him get upset, on the outside anyway, over a shuffleboard game.

He was the nicest guy that ever played the game, and he played it very, very well. He deserves to be inducted into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, as well as the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

—*Al Stewart*

In my estimation, Billy Chiles was a truly great player, and an asset to the game of shuffleboard. He was always a gentleman, and let his playing speak for itself.

—*Jay Wilson*

B.C.— a great shuffleboard player—a better friend. I am honored to have known and played with him.

—*Paul Elliott*

Billy Chiles! How can one describe in honoring him, just what he has meant to all of us and the game of shuffleboard in just a few short sentences? It's very difficult to write, as the emotions seem to overwhelm one's thoughts.

For 30 some odd years, I saw a man of gentleness kindness and a true concern for his fellow man, a love for his wife and children trickled down through all of us.

He gave his time unselfishly to the game of shuffleboard to help young players coming up and to bring the game to a truly professional height.

His words of wisdom and his soft gentle voice always managed to reach us all. He was the silent one in the game, but yet spoke with a loud voice, for somehow he was always heard.

He will always be with us. There is not a tournament that slips by that he is not thought of. He was a great player and a great sport.

But most of all, to Lois and I, he was a great man and our dear friend. It is our pleasure to honor such a man.

—*Freddy & Lois Thuman*

Billy Chiles induction into the Hall of Fame is well deserved. He was not only one of the finest players in our sport, but a true gentleman and an ambassador of shuffleboard

—*Richard (Bubba) Warren*

I knew Billy Chiles for a good thirty years. We have played many times together in sessions and tourneys. I considered Billy one of the finest players and teachers of the game.

—*Ted Z.*

Billy's Friends Remember . . .

Billy Chiles was my opponent, Billy was my partner, Billy was my friend. From all of us at N.S.H.O.F., we're all proud he was a part of our sport, and was a credit to the game. Bon Voyage, Billy Chiles, rest well.

—Glenn Davidson
President, Natl. Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

Besides being one of the best shuffleboard players on the planet and, as the first road player I ever met, he was very inspirational for my shuffleboard career.

Billy was possibly the finest gentleman I've ever had the pleasure of knowing. He is sorely missed.

—Darrol Nelson

Billy and I were shuffleboard partners and played many tournaments and sessions together. During this period, I learned many things from him: how to relax against the Big Boys, how to stay focused and concentrate, and among other things, how to win. We had some success, and I grew as a player. Our families also became close and my kids still enjoy spending time with Chris, Eric and Lauren.

I would like to thank Chris for letting me "borrow" Billy on occasion back then, and to this day, watching my kids once in a while so I can go play. She deserves credit, as do many "shuffleboard wives," for all those nights and weekends spent home with the kids. So, thank you, Chris, we love you, and thank you, Billy, for everything. I miss you, old friend!

—Bill Maxwell

Billy Chiles, "the Ice Man", who played the great shuffleboard players from coast to coast, God bless you! Billy, you are missed by all.

—James Anderson

Billys Friends Remember . . .

Billy was one of the best supporters for new and upcoming players to the game. He supported many of the ABC tournaments as well as the Pro-Am and other tournaments. Billy had a kind and gentle way about him.

I'm glad I had the chance to know him and to play shuffleboard with him. Billy will be remembered as one of the greatest shuffleboard legends of our time.

—*Joanie Swenson*

I first met Billy in 1980 at The Shelter in Yorba Linda, California.

When I first saw him shoot, I was totally amazed at how smoothly this man released a puck. It didn't take me long to learn just how skilled he was at the game of shuffleboard.

I'm very thankful to have shared just a small piece of his lifetime. He was a true competitor and artist in the sport and will be greatly missed.

—*Jim "The Marlin" Martin*

I will always remember Billy Chiles as one of the greatest players and mentors in shuffleboard.

He was a big influence and a great inspiration to me.

—*John Fisher*

When I think of Billy Chiles, I remember the twinkle in his eyes, his friendliness, and his soft voice.

Billy, you will be missed at tournaments for years to come.

—*Eileen Eades*

Memories of Billy . . .

Moses—my name for Billy Chiles. I met him around 1963. My first big road trip. We went through Yuba City & Anderson in CA, plus many stops in Oregon and Washington. We collected a lot of victories on that trip, but most of all, I ended up with a good friend for life.

I don't remember when I changed his name (for me at least) to Moses. That's what I called him for quite a few years. It was a nickname out of respect for Billy as a man, a friend, and a competitor.

I miss Moses a lot. I usually played against him through the years, although I remember one evening in San Jose, we played partners.

We held the board for about 15 hours. There was only one problem, and it was not about winning. We were doing plenty of that. I don't know if you ever noticed but when Moses knocked weights off the board, he had that beautiful soft stroke and they would barely make it to the end. So I went down to his end about halfway through the session and asked good old Moses if he could "please shoot just a *wee* bit harder."

And in that calm and quiet voice, he simply said, "Hal, that's about as hard as I can shoot." That was Moses. He was a gentle man who never got too excited, and always gave the game his best. I am very happy to see this great player inducted into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. What a wonderful choice.

Shoot softly in Heaven Old Friend.

—Hal Perry

It was a great honor to have Billy Chiles as a local player at the Silver Spur. He devoted a lot of time and effort to shuffleboard, and in helping others with the game.

—Don Pope

Memories of Billy . . .

Phil and I both thought very highly of Billy Chiles, as a person and as a player. We respected him for both his playing and for being one of the true gentlemen in our sport. We are happy that he is being honored by the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame and wish we could be there to share the moment with Chris, Eric and Lauren.

Billy Chiles was to lagging what Earl Kelly was to driving weights. We were privileged to witness what I consider the greatest lagging feat in the history of our sport at the 1991 US Open. He and his partner had 7 points when Billy lagged two straight 4's to end the first game of the match. Now although that is impressive, it has been done before. What followed I have not seen before or since as Billy proceeded to lag two consecutive fours to start the next game, for a total of four consecutive hangers.

Although it did not seem especially important at the time, meeting Billy Chiles for the first time was one of the most significant moments in my playing career. It was in 1979 on a Saturday afternoon at the Wintergarden Cafe in Detroit, where all of the toughest players in the area (I wasn't one of them at the time) played back then. It was the first time I ever saw anyone lag freehand, or for that matter, shoot span shots.

From the first game, he and his partner Bud Broka, played until the bar closed 12 hours later. They never lost a game. By the time the day was half over, every time they had 12 points and Billy had the hammer, the locals were reaching for their wallets, getting ready to pay for another loss.

The next day, Sunday, the bar opened at noon. I was there about ten minutes early and was sitting in the parking lot waiting for the place to open, when my partner at that time came rolling in. He asked what I was doing there so early. I replied, "Same thing as you are. *I am going to learn that freehand lag.*" Fortunately Billy and Bud had moved on to the next town to beat up Rick Boyer and company at the Wagon Wheel.

After practicing the freehand for a couple of hours, it dawned on us that there was no way that Billy and Bud were going to get beat at their next stop, so we jumped in my car and made the forty-five minute trip to Lake Orion. By the time the day was over, we had recouped all of our losses from the previous day and then some. That freehand had led the way to another undefeated day, and this day we were betting on the right team, and although it took a while, I learned that freehand lag.

—John McDermott

Memories of Billy . . .

Supporting shuffleboard is what I admired Billy for. Being the great player he was, he never got mad or abused the game. I had known Billy for a long, long time and played against and with him.

The last time we played was in 1996. Billy had his hammer in the third game of the loser's bracket final, score 14 to 14. He missed a game weight with the hammer. Billy just didn't get mad. Billy came down to me and said he was sorry. I told him 3rd is better than 4th, and I think we made enough to go have a drink.

I wish he was here to try it again.

—*Sparky Sparkman*

I will always remember Billy winning the first One Grand Shootout at the Shelter and using the \$800 we won to enter the Singles Tournament in Vegas. He always said that the "pros" won't tell you what you are doing wrong, so that you can't beat them.

—*Bob Brunskill*

I have known Billy for many years, and he was my friend for many years. The only tournament I ever won was with Billy in Temecula in January of 1993. He had to play really great—I was real heavy!

I'll see you at the big board in the sky!

—*Bruce Hale*

Billy Chiles was a friend and neighbor of mine when I lived in San Bernardino, California. Many years ago, I remember going to Victorville, California, one weekend and losing my paycheck. I called Billy and told him, and he and I went back the next weekend and won it all back and then some. He was a great player and a good friend.

—*Woodie Cockrum*