



## THE CALIFORNIA SHUFFLEBOARD HALL OF FAME

Induction Ceremony Honoring

**Jim Martin**

Presented at  
**Exeter Eagles Lodge**  
Exeter, California

**April 27, 2018**

## JIM MARTIN

James Gary Martin was born on June 15, 1942, in the little town of Carbon, Indiana. The town got its name from a coal mine just outside the city limits. Jim was brought into the world by a midwife, a person that's trained for assisting in birth. He was born in a small four room house that was soon after converted into a corn crib. That's why sometimes when you ask Jim where he was born he will tell you; "I was born in a corn crib."

When Jim was about three years old, the family bought his grandpa and grandma Thompson's 217-acre farm which was located just outside of Greencastle, Indiana. The first two years, the family lived there without electricity or running water. He recalls his mother heating the water on the old coal burning stove and adding cold water into a tub to take a bath with his older brother. Their small hand kitchen and lit with kerosene lamps. The heating was produced by a large pot belly stove. He recalls his dad banking that stove many winter nights. After three years, his parents modernized the house. He remembers how wonderful it was to have a bathtub, shower and commode all in one room and not having to heat the water to take a bath. And, the trips to the outhouse were a blessing to give up!



Jim went to elementary school in a very small country school. Usually there were only 3 to 5 kids in his class. It wasn't until his mom and dad sold the farm and relocated in Lafayette, Indiana that he started attending larger schools. Going to school in Lafayette in the sixth grade was quite an ordeal for Jim. There were 35 students

in his class and he wondered how he would remember 35 names! After drinking raw, whole milk all his life, he had to start drinking homogenized milk. It tasted terrible and it took him a long time to adapt.

In high school there were over 300 students in Jim's class and he had to go from room to room for each class. That was a big ordeal for him. Fortunately, his older brother Larry was a grade ahead of him and warned him of all the little tricks that the upper classmates would be playing on him when he came to high school as a freshman.



Jim attended Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, and then enlisted in the US Marine Corps. He did his basic training in San Diego, CA. and then went on to radio repair school, also in San Diego.

After Jim was discharged from the Marines, he got his first real job working for North American Aviation Corporation located in Slauson, CA. He also worked at the corporation's Downey and Seal Beach facilities. This was a dream come true for him as it was a field that Jim enjoyed. But unfortunately, in 1969 the aerospace program was cut back, and Jim was laid off. Trying to work his way back into aerospace was unsuccessful for him and it was then that he decided he would go to work for the Prudential Insurance company which he ended up retiring from 30 years later in 1998. It was a career that he kind of stumbled into. Jim will be celebrating his 20<sup>th</sup> year of retirement in May of this year.

Jim's shuffleboard career started when he met the love of his life, Pam. It was Pam's father, Ray Wallace, that taught Jim how to play shuffleboard. The first place Jim remembers playing shuffleboard was The Crock, in Downey, CA. From there he and Ray ventured out into a few other local bars, including the Hide-a-Way and the Darts. He always felt that he was a pretty good player until he met Bob Brunskill and was invited to play in the tournament that Bob ran every Saturday. Jim soon found out that he wasn't the player he thought he was. It was at these weekend tournaments that he met the players that were the real pros at the time. Just to name a few: Billy Chiles, Bill Maxwell, Joe Muniz, Karl Spickelmier and Bubba Warren. He recalls watching those guys shoot and saying to himself; "Is this really how the game is played?"

Edna & Ray Wallace



Pam & Jim



He knew right then and there that if he was going to continue to play, he was going to have to step up his game. He started playing at places like Amato's in Huntington Beach and the Covered Wagon in Anaheim. It was during this time that Jim earned his nickname. He remembers walking into Amato's and hearing Bubba ask; "Who do we have today, is it a mackerel or a marlin?" A few years later, the Dixie Belle in Downey was a popular place to play and held tournaments that brought in players from all over the country.

Jim is very grateful for what the game has given him. It's a fun sport to play and has given him the opportunity to meet people from different backgrounds. So, Jim decided he would try to give back to our community. He had decided before he retired that he needed something as a hobby to keep him busy into retirement. Jim had shot hundreds of feet of film of his kids when they were young, and he decided to dig it all up and try editing it. Getting the footage digitized so he could edit it was not an easy feat nor was it cheap. He gathered up all the old 8 mm reels and took them to Costco and had them do it all for around \$1000. After that, he started to learn the different programs on how to edit the video. Years later when the grandchildren came along, Jim had a lot more knowledge about video editing. The first shuffleboard video that he ever shot and edited was at the Covered Wagon in 1996. He recalls carrying around this VHS recorder hooked up to a battery pack that had to weigh 30 or 40 lbs and was strapped over his shoulder. Editing it was a very complicated process. "How times have changed," Jim says. Nowadays, he walks around with just a little iPhone or an iPad and shoots high quality video and edits on his iMac at home.

Jim has made well over 200 different videos of shuffleboard in the last 20 years. He has done several tributes and memorials along with the state and national Hall of Fame inductions.

Jim hosted the Marlin Open for professional players from 2011 to 2015. As the handicap systems evolved to entice more novice and intermediate players to enter tournaments, the pros were often penalized by not being able to play together or by having their Calcuttas raised so high it wasn't cost-effective to play. The Marlin Open was the only annual tournament in California at that time that really celebrated the professional players.

As a player, Jim has cashed in many tournaments in California, Nevada (NASC) and Arizona in Open (Pro) and Division 1 events. He has been rated in the top 5-6% in the country since 2002. Jim also served as President of the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame for 7 years.

## TESTIMONIALS

Congratulations Mr. Jim Martin. This is well deserved, and we are really excited for you. What you've done for the people and the sport is far beyond what anyone asks. And you sir are one of the best video makers. Again, congratulations.

Mindy Brannen and Bobby Dean Kulow

Congratulations Jim, on your induction to the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Your involvement with shuffleboard has helped the game and thanks to your video productions, many of us will always have great memories of tournaments we have played in and the other inductions that you helped put together. When the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame first started, you as a committee member at the time, helped the CSHOF become one of the best state halls of fame and when you became President of the CSHOF, you improved some of the aspects of our hall of fame. Thank you for all you have done, and congratulations again on your Hall of Fame induction.

Your friends Joanie and Allan Healey



Joanie Healey and Jim

Jim Martin,

Congratulations on your induction into the CSHOF, it is an honor to know you and have you as a friend. You have done so much for Shuffleboard over the years and continue to do so. Enjoy your day Jimmy!

Dave Brennan

A partial list of tournaments Jim has cashed in

PLACE	YEAR	LOCATION	EVENT	EVENT	PARTNERS
5th	1985	The Shelters	One Grand Shootout		
3rd	1988	Amato's	Tournament of Champions	Draw Doubles	Vern Booth
6th	1992	Stagger Inn	St. Patrick's Tournament	Doubles	Ted Curtis
2nd	1992	Amato's	Tournament of Champions	Doubles	Carol Oehl
4th	1998	Dixie Belle	July 4th Tournament	Doubles	"Jaybird" Wilson
2nd	1999		NASC	Deuces Wild	
2nd	2000	Oskar's	Hall of Fame Tournament	Doubles	Craig Amundson
3rd	2002	ET's Sport's Lounge	President's Day	A-B Draw	Billy Hunt
1st	2002	Sportman's Lounge		Open Doubles	Bobby Voorhis
1st	2003	Huntington Moos	Billy Chiles Memorial	Doubles	Jane Morgous
1st	2004	Exeter	July 4th Tournament	ABC	Gary&Susie Jones
3rd	2004	Exeter	July 4th Tournament	Doubles	Robert "Cowboy" Wade
2nd	2007	Downey Elks	Sweetheart's Tournament	Doubles	Chris Brown
1st	2008	Oskar's	Thanksgiving Tournament	ABC	
3rd	2008	Stockton Moose L	President's Day	A-B Draw	Ronnie Graham
1st	2009	Exeter	July 4th Tournament	Add to 2	Dwayne Maxwell
2nd	2009	Downey Elks	Thanksgiving Tournament	Doubles	Robert "Cowboy" Wade
4th	2010	Downey Elks	Sweetheart's Tournament	Doubles	Chris Brown
2nd	2010	Oskar's	Memorial Day	ABC	Marlene B, Russ L
3rd	2010	Downey Elks	Thanksgiving Tournament	Doubles	Kenny Hawkes
1st	2011	Sands, Reno	NASC	Pro/Am Draft	
4th	2012	Cocktails Anyone	President's Day	Doubles	Hal Perry
1st	2012	Cocktails Anyone	Memorial Day	A-B Draw	Ritchie Eschilian
1st	2012	Cocktails Anyone	Memorial Day	Open Doubles	Nick Chaffin
1st	2012	Exeter	July 4th Tournament	A-B Draw	Karl Klem
2nd	2012	Exeter	July 4th Tournament	Add to 2	Kathy Thomas
2nd	2012	Sands, Reno	NASC	4 Person Team	
7/8th	2012	Sands, Reno	NASC	Pro/Am Draft	
3rd	2013	Royal Room	Memorial Day	ABC	
2nd	2013	Exeter	July 4th Tournament	A-B Draw	Carl Kelm
3rd	2014	Downey Elks	Sweetheart's Tournament	Doubles	Chris Brown
5/6th	2014	Sands, Reno	NASC	Div 1 Doubles	Paul Obermiller
3rd	2016	Stinger's, AZ	President's Day	Open Doubles	Don Baxter
3rd	2017	Stinger's, AZ	President's Day	Open Doubles	Paul Obermiller
2nd	2018	Stinger's, AZ	President's Day	Open Doubles	Paul Obermiller

Congratulations Jim, well deserved and long overdue.  
Vern Booth



Vern Booth and Jim

I remember when I first started playing shuffleboard and just going to Oskar's to watch the better players play money games to see if I could learn something. Jim was an A player that a new player would want to play with, he never screamed loudly at me. Jim was always very encouraging (although I am sure he was saying to himself; "Crap, how come I get all the new players?"), and I was never afraid to play on his team.

Congratulations, and well deserved!  
Janna Brannen

Jim has been a big inspiration and influence on the Game of Shuffleboard by preserving our sport by his videos. He has been a big supporter and promoter. Well deserved! Congratulations on being inducted to the CSHOF

David Keithahn



Jim, Darroll Nelson, Dave Keithahn

Jim,

Congratulations on being inducted into the California Shuffleboard HOF, this is a very well deserved honor for you! You have been a great Ambassador for shuffleboard and we are honored to call you friend!

Terry, Kathy and Haylee Yingst

Besides Player and Promoter, I believe Jim should be celebrated for his efforts as Documentarian and Historian for the game of shuffleboard. Jim started creating videos of tournaments, inductions and memorials in 1996 and they are wonderful. He has even gone back and found old footage from the early 1980's which he edited and posted online. It is great seeing the players from that era who will now never be forgotten. I enjoyed hearing the audio of Jim and Hal Perry talking about how different the game was in the old days with the flat boards and the keep hammer and how things evolved through the years. He is also a great player, as I have witnessed countless times! Thank you, Jim, this honor is well deserved!

Kathy Thomas



Jim Martin is a great competitor and an excellent shot. More importantly, he is a true sportsman. He is always respectful while playing the game he loves. Jim is truly deserving of the California HOF.

Congratulations!  
Jim Harvey

Jim (Fartin) Martin

I started playing shuffleboard in 1960. At that time, Billy Mays was the name of the game. Everyone knew his name from the east coast to the west coast. I couldn't wait to meet and play him. What a talent. Jim is doing the same thing today with his talent. He does so much for the game and the people in it, and it's all done with a camera and his great ability to paint a picture of the people and history of the game. If you are at a tournament and see Jim, walk up and shake his hand. He's kicked the game up a couple of notches. I'm proud to call Jim a friend of mine and I welcome him to the California Shuffleboard Hall of fame!

Hal Perry (#1 fan)

p.s. It's a shame, but this one talent has almost hidden the fact that he is a damn good shuffleboard player!

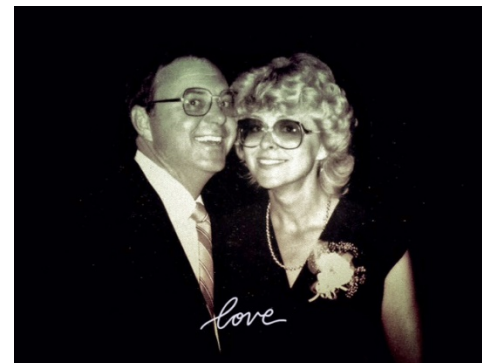


Marion Bailly, Bob Hunt, Jim, Hal Perry, Al Salazar

I'm so gosh dang happy that you are being inducted into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. I'm recommending that you should become a top-notch Texan as well. All in favor!!!

Mahlon Nobles

JIM AND FAMILY



# JIM AND FRIENDS



Jim, Dave Brennan, Tony Appell, Tim O'Brien, Phil Gardner  
Kenny Hawkes, Bob Crum, Dwayne Maxwell



Paul and Hope Webber, Jim



Grant Watson, Manny Canada, Jim



Jim and Obie Pierce



Jim and Joe Nin



Dan Mourgos and Jim



Jim, Marlene Brennan, Russ Langton



Paul Obermiller and Jim



Steve Floyd, John McGinnis, Vern Booth, Jim, Grant Manning



Jim and Billy Mays



Don Cox, Nick Chaffin, Kevin Ansbro, Jim  
2012 4-man team



Robbie Gann and Jim



Jimmy the Cop and Jim  
Jim and Roger Holloway



Jim and Chris Brown

## MORE TESTIMONIALS

Jim, congratulations on your California Hall of Fame induction; an achievement well deserved!

From the first time I met you I admired your calm demeanor and willingness to share the game and help others along. Your skill, combined with your sense of humor, invites so many to join in and enjoy the game we all love! You are a great player and promoter of the game. Thank you for making huge strides in preserving shuffleboard history. You've spent a lot of energy making everyone else the star. Now you are that **STAR!** Well-deserved Mr. Martin. Let's have a pink drink! Congratulations.

Jane Mourgos



Where do I start? I've known Jim Martin about 20 years. He's a great shuffleboard player and a good friend. He is a great inspiration to new players, always willing to help any way he can. He has done a lot for shuffleboard and is still doing it. He still plays a pretty good game and travels all over to play in tournaments. He is also a great video maker and does a wonderful job for anyone who wants a tribute of a loved one. It's my honor to know you Jim Martin. Congratulations on your induction into the hall of fame.

Love you,  
Jan Manes

I first met Jim in 1983 soon after buying a shuffleboard for 'The Shelter'. He became a member of the 'B' Shelter shuffleboard team. The 'A' team consisted of a close-knit group (clique) of long-time customers. The 'C' team was the all-girls team. The only woman on the 'A' or 'B' teams was Michele Lamo.

I heard that Jim's first game at the Shelter was against Thumper. Jim won, and Thumper tried to pay him \$20. Jim protested, saying he thought they were playing for \$5. He was very glad that he won, thinking of the dreadful scene that would have happened if he had tried to pay Thumper \$5 on a \$20 game.

Jim had played before with his father-in-law but had become interested in darts. He was the promoter of several 'triathlon' events at the Shelter (shuffleboard, pool and darts) which he usually won.

Jim went to the first PCSA Las Vegas tournament as a member of the Shelter team in 1989. In the Amateur team event (best of nine) the format used a single board so that soon after starting, it became apparent that the format would have to be changed. It became a timed event with the winner being declared as the team that was ahead after the allotted time. Jim won one of our matches by shooting very slowly and lagging a three just before time ran out.

Jim played in several of the Marysville tournaments in the 80's. These tournaments were all open. There was no rating system at that time.

Jim organized several trips to the Salton Sea (Desert Shores) where he had a mobile home about two blocks from a bar with a shuffleboard. His father-in-law lived next door and he would join us and we would play shuffleboard all week-end. On one of these trips we went looking for a different board. We caused quite a stir when we walked into the bar with a gun case.

When I turned 50, my wife Anna put up a "Happy 50th Birthday" sign in the bar. Jim bet her \$50 that she wouldn't still have the sign when he turned 50. He lost.

Jim and I partnered in the Best Little Wherehouse 4th of July tournament in 1988. In the middle of the doubles event, I had a stroke and we had to forfeit. We were scheduled for a match against Kathleen Wisdom and her sister Marie Coulter. I think that was the last time Jim and I played together.

Jim was President of the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame before turning that over to Dave Keithahn.

Jim has produced many excellent videos over the years both of shuffleboard playing and tributes to those that have passed.

Congratulations Jim on your induction into the CSHOF.  
Bob Brunskill

I'm glad to see that Jim Martin has been inducted into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame as both a player and a promoter. He's been active in and around the shuffleboard scene in California since forever. His knowledge of the history of California shuffleboard and its players is deep. His skill at the game has been proven in his ratings over the past 20+ years. His love of the game is evident to anyone that has ever taken the time to talk to him on the subject. Personally, I really enjoy any opportunity to play with Jim and talk to him about the many sessions he's had with other players through his years and travels. Congratulations Jimmy on a well-deserved induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame!

Lance Lohr  
VP Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

Jimmy, congrats you are a superstar! I'm honored to say I know you very well, you are a friend of mine and my family loves you. You are a true ambassador of the sport and Athena's last partner. Thank you so much, being your partner made her so happy! We always look forward to seeing Jim Martin, the multi-talented spokesman for shuffleboard and a well-deserved hall of fame member.

Tawny and Pam Ringer

Jimmy Martin has always been a solid, caring force regarding our family and connecting us with the shuffleboard world. His sense of humor is always under the surface, ready to emerge at any time. An example was when Tim was with Jim and they were heading our way to Whittier to meet for dinner. Jim called and said they would be late because they had been in an accident. I asked how Tim was and he said; "Not too good, the steering wheel was in his chest!" My heart dropped into my stomach, then he told me he was just kidding! That was pure Jimmy, and it's funny now! We appreciate Jim's friendship and his great sense of humor. Congratulations!

Ilde O'Brien and family

I'm so pleased to know that Jim is being inducted into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Jim has been one of the better players in the state for many years, and this recognition is certainly well earned. He has also been California's leading ambassador to the Table Shuffleboard community for a long time and his efforts in that area, and as a promoter of the game have been tireless. Finally, his video work is preserving the history of the game for all to enjoy and appreciate, and it has connected the rich history of our sport to its present as well as its future. Congratulations, Jim, on this well- deserved honor!

John McDermott

Can't say that I know Jim super well, but I know of him. A man with great integrity and true support of the game. An honor and recognition well deserved.

Cyndi Busch

I'm writing this to honor my dear friend, Jimmy Martin. He has been a good friend for several years. I have always considered Jim a gentleman with a kind and caring heart. Thinking of him as an honorable man, led me to realize a personal comparison. Bobby Goldsmith had always been a man whom I've held in highest esteem. He was my mentor. A man of integrity and someone I looked up to guidance, advice, a father figure. I had recently told Jimmy that because of how I respected him, his integrity and kind heart, I was passing on to him this same level of respect, love and admiration that I had for Bobby. Congratulations Jimmy, no one is more deserving of induction to the hall of fame.

Sincerely, Pamela Shaw



I am so happy to see Mr. Jim "Gary" Martin, finally recognized by the California HOF. He has given his heart and soul to the shuffleboard community in so many ways. He has put endless hours into recording, editing, and producing 100's of videos chronicling decades of historical table shuffleboard moments. Without Jimmy, the game would be without a historian. His dedication and success in the game, as a promoter and a player, have certainly earned his place in the California Hall of Fame. Congratulations, Jim. I am proud to call you my friend.

Eddie Brayman