

**The California  
Shuffleboard Hall of Fame**

**proudly inducts**

**Jolene Lembke**



**Presented at**

**Oscar's Lounge**

**Bellflower, California**

**April 15, 2000**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
JOLENE LEMBKE**



**THIS IS YOUR LIFE!**

## **JOLENE LEMBKE — THIS IS YOUR LIFE**

**by Marilyn McCracken and friends**

Our honoree was born Jolene Cockrum in the show-me state, Missouri, on November 6th a few years ago.

Her father was a cotton farmer and times were hard, then, trying to make ends meet, when there weren't any ends to make meet.

In 1943, her father sold out and began the cross-country trek to Highland, California. He worked his way across the country, building prison camps for the government. This was very hard on the kids, as they would no more than find out what schoolroom they were in, and they were on the move again.

We were talking about school one day, and Jolene said the boys constantly teased her about her name, *Cockrum*. After being harrassed to the breaking point one day, she went home, crying, and said to her dad, "Can't we change our name, daddy? I'm sick and tired of being teased about it." Her dad in his infinite wisdom replied, "Jolene, when you get older, you will understand that two of the most important things in life to a man is in your name—cock and rum!"

Jolene married early in life, but the wedded bliss flew out the window in the late 50's, when Jolene's first husband walked out, leaving her with two baby boys, Charles and Mike, and no visible means of support. Seeing her plight, a friend, gave her a job at his Driftwood Tavern (now known as the Silver Spur) in San Bernardino.

The Driftwood Tavern was well known for its shuffleboard, and Jolene, always a good worker, became interested in watching the shuffleboarders play. She would always fill in if someone needed a partner—that is, if they were willing to wait till she served her customers first.

At the Driftwood, she met some of the big name players



such as Glen Davidson, Bob Miles, Al Stewart, and a local newcomer, Billy Chiles. All four have since been inducted into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Then, in the mid-sixties, Jolene went to work at a tavern called the Head Hunters. She was able to pull together, through the people she had met, a team that none of the other taverns could match, and became known as “the best lady player around.”

Some time after that, Jolene met the love of her life, Roy Lembke, who was an engineer for the City of Los Angeles. They lived in Yucaipa till he retired, and they bought a second home in Bend Oregon, and spent their summers up there, and the winters down here.

Roy shared Jolene’s love of shuffleboard, so they also bought a motor home and traveled extensively from Washington to California, and as far east as Missouri and Texas, playing and promoting shuffleboard, and also *The Board Talk*. Jolene is a born promoter, and can twist your arm with such ease that you don’t even realize it’s been twisted, as many of you here can attest to.

Jolene lost her beloved Roy in 1991, after a long, hard battle with cancer. To overcome this, she poured even more of her energy into promoting shuffleboard, winning tournaments, and then, as the first President of the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, presiding over Al Stewart’s induction on Valentine’s Day in 1998, and every succeeding one, till this one, which comes as a great surprise to her.

It has been over 40 years, since Jolene Lembke became involved in shuffleboard. (You realize, of course, that she was only ten years old at the time!) There is not space here to mention all the tournaments she has won. Suffice it to say, SHE IS A WINNER!

## **Congratulations “Tober” Jolene by her brother Woodie Cockrum**

You have done so much for shuffleboard, I rate you alongside the Wilbers and the Bowers. Though you may not take more than 4 out of 10 games playing 1 on 1 with the best, you are a -1 in all other categories in Shuffleboard.

I have been asked to give some history on your life, so here goes. Jolene was born in the Bootheel of Missouri on November 6, a long, long time ago. (I learned some time ago, never to tell a lady's age.)

Her father was a cotton farmer and, like most folks, times were tough trying to make ends meet, when there were no ends to make meet.

In late 1943 the family sold out and started the move to Highland, California, Father worked his way across the country as a carpenter building prison camps for the government. This made it real tough on the kids in the Cockrum family to get an education. They would no more than find out what classroom they were in, and they were on the move again. Jolene was able to conquer that challenge just as she has in her shuffleboard life.

Jolene began playing shuffleboard in the late 50's at a place called the Driftwood in San Bernardino. It is now called The Silver Spur and owned by Don Pope. Almost from the start she began setting up leagues and starting Round Robins. She was good at talking people into picking up a puck and teaching them how to play the game.

There was also a place called Dixie Inn where all the best went on the weekends, names like Bob Miles, Billy Chiles, Al Stewart, and others who are out of the game now like Mickey Tigers, Arizona Bill, and Raggedy Don, just to name a few.

Playing the game and receiving awards is great, but to have your peers acknowledge your accomplishments and induct you into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame will be your highest honor. I know of no one more deserving of this award than Jolene. Jolene— you are a winner

Much love,  
— Woodie Cockrum



### **Jolene's Friends Speak Out . . .**

I can't think of anyone more deserving than Jolene Lembke to be inducted into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. As a player, promoter, and good will ambassador, Jolene excels in all fields.

I congratulate Jolene on her induction into the Hall of Fame.

— *Paul Weber*

We at the Silver Spur are pleased to see Jolene in the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. She has been instrumental in organizing weekly tournaments at the Silver Spur and has organized several other large tournaments, creating a new interest in shuffleboard in this area. She spends countless hours of her own time to recruit players both old and new to attend these tournaments.

Jolene has helped many new players learn to be better ones with her patience in teaching them the finer techniques of the game. She is a credit to the game and gives much of her time and energy to making it a better one. For her ability and dedication to Shuffleboard, she deserves to be in the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

— *Don Pope, Owner, Silver Spur, San Bernardino, CA*

Congratulations to a very deserving person. Jolene has always been an active promoter for Shuffleboard. In her youth she was considered one of the best women players in the U.S.A. As recently as January, she won the Ladies Singles *and* doubles in the Women's State Tournament in Livermore, California.

We all enjoy and appreciate Jolene's hard work and dedication to shuffleboard. She recently promoted the Billy Chiles ABC Memorial Tournament at the Silver Spur in San Bernardino.

We have had a lot of good times with Jolene and are proud to be her friend. Again, congratulations.

— *Tony and Dottie Bastanchury*

## **The Board Talk**

George & Donna Wilber, Publishers  
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### **To: The California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Committee**

Jolene Lembke has been in our "Hall of Fame" long before there was one! She and her brother, Woodie Cockrum from Missouri, became our first reporters when *The Board Talk* started in 1984. Throughout the years since then, she has been our No. 1 subscription "salesperson," beating out No. 2, Bill Melton. For all she has done to maintain the well being of table shuffleboard's communication vehicle, she has never received any compensation, other than our gratitude.

We are especially proud of Jolene in her role as president of the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Under her leadership, your state has served as a model for other parts of the country and you continue to be the best. We greatly admire her commitment to high standards and professionalism, and her ability to delegate responsibilities to her talented committee (and make them grow). Those characteristics will keep California in the forefront of Hall of Fame efforts.

It will probably be a great surprise (we certainly hope so) to Jolene that she has met the tough criteria for induction and the realization that she has done so should be a source of pride to her for the rest of her life. There is no greater honor than being recognized by your peers.

You have our heartfelt endorsement of Jolene Lembke for induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. We congratulate you for making it happen. While we cannot be there for this special event, we will surely be there in spirit.

*George and Donna Wilber*



## **A TRIBUTE TO JOLENE by Balboa Ron Schweikert**

I first met Jolene at the Balboa Club in El Monte, in the late 60's, when she was dating Lee Waggoner. I was home on leave from the Army. Jolene was quite a looker in those days (and still is) and LeRoy was a proud man to have her by his side.

Late one night, shortly after I had met Jolene, we were all leaving the Balboa Club. Wanting to show her that we accepted her, as we walked to the parking lot, I threw a friendly arm around her shoulder. In a twinkling of an eye, I found myself flat on my back on the cement, staring at the stars. She apparently mistook my intentions, (and she also had a black belt or something in Jujitsu)! I and my arthritis will never forget that night.

I was pretty embarrassed about it, until the same thing happened to a friend of ours, Walt Graham, a weight-lifter with bulging biceps, but she flipped him onto the concrete as easily as she did me.

Jolene has, for over 30 years been an avid player and supporter of Shuffleboard. For 18 of those 30 years of our friendship I was on active duty in the Army, so I can only share what I have known personally, (plus some pretty reliable second-hand information).

Jolene's contributions to the game are considerable, to say the least. She was the first West Coast Reporter for the Board Talk magazine, representing California. She has always been involved with projects to improve our sport. She had a whole lot of help from her second husband of 17 years, Roy Lembke. This man was a real gentleman, and, like Jolene, loved the game. Their love for the game was only second to their devotion for each other. It was a pleasure to see them work (on and off the shuffleboards) as a team.

Everyone who knows Jolene knows how much effort she has put in, and how much she has accomplished with the California Hall of Fame. She and the other CSHF Board members have worked long and hard to produce appointments and presentations which are second to none. Jolene and the Board should certainly be applauded for that.

Jolene, you deserve all the accolades you'll receive in recognition for your love for, and the spirit you have in promoting our sport.

One thing you must always remember—keep on doing what you're doing . . . because the game of Shuffleboard wouldn't be the same without you. Heartiest Congratulations!



### **A Tribute to A Phenomenal Lady by Ruth Miles**

In my heart of hearts I know no one more deserving of recognition than Jolene for her untiring efforts promoting shuffleboard, and for her playing ability. I am thrilled the California players have recognized this and have chosen to induct her into the California Hall of Fame.

For many years Jolene has been instrumental in keeping our beloved game alive. I remember when *The Board Talk* was in its infancy. Jolene sold subscriptions, always promoting, receiving little recognition for her effort and dedication, but she never gave up. Glen Davidson saw her potential and asked her to become the President of the California Hall of Fame and the rest is history.

Jolene has survived a personal tragedy beyond comprehension. She confided in me and described the last terrible months of her husband's life. I sincerely do not believe I could have survived such devastation. She is a very strong woman. I believe she wanted to keep playing and promoting the game more for Roy than anything. We all know how he absolutely loved the game of shuffleboard.

Has anyone, other than myself, noticed Jolene is playing better all the time, the answer is "yes," no one is blind. I don't ask her anymore how she did, just ask how many events did you win. At a time when many players are considering a tamer life, Jolene just says "**revemup,**" and charges into third gear. She has transformed a little known bar with virtually no serious players into a going concern, brought in new players, improved players and a tournament house. She has put another name on the list of places to play around the World of Shuffleboard. Well done, Jolene—keep it up.

I would be remiss if I did not mention she has a heart of gold. All her friends know this already. Thank you, Jolene, for being my friend and confidante. I love you. THIS IS YOUR DAY SO HAVE A LOT OF FUN!

—*Ruth Miles*

### **More from Jolene's friends . . .**

I met Jolene and her husband Roy in the early 80's at Amatos in Huntington Beach, California. I soon realized that Jolene was one shuffleboard player that deserved respect when playing against her. That woman can shoot some good stuff!

Over the past years I have come to know Jolene much better, and have been her partner in a Sweetheart Tournament. She hasn't asked me to play as her partner since!

Jolene has contributed much time and energy to our sport. She became the first roaming reporter for the Board Talk and did a great job keeping us all informed with events across the USA in the World of Shuffleboard.

Since the formation of the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, Jolene has served as President. Because of all the effort and the accomplishments of Jolene and the other board members, I have been told by Hall of Fame board members from other states that their state would use our California state inductions as a model. What better compliment could anyone receive than that.

Thanks, Jolene, for all you have done for the great sport of Shuffleboard. I wish you only the best in the coming years. Congratulations to you, and good health.

Sincerely, —*Jim Martin*

Congratulations, Jolene. You have certainly worked hard enough to make our Hall of Fame better than any other state. (That's what people from other states are saying.)

Who would have thought when I first met you 32 years ago, that I would be the first man to be inducted and you would be the first woman to be inducted. I guess the ad in the Board Talk that says, "California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame has found a few good men," will have to add, "and a good woman."

Thanks to you and your associates for such a GREAT job.

—*Al Stewart*



## JOLENE'S FRIENDS SPEAK OUT . . .

For the last 32 years Jolene has been my best friend. I met her in 1968 when she lived in San Bernardino, and came to El Monte recruiting players for a tournament in Visalia.

One weekend Jolene and I went to Lancaster to play shuffleboard and for me to meet her family. We came across a little bar with a shuffleboard, but no good players. I was ready to leave, but Jolene wanted to play. This escalated into a full blown argument. She was so ticked at me that as we walked out the door to go to the car, she swung her purse at me with such force that when she missed me, she slipped and fell on the sidewalk, cracking her head, and blacking her eye. She had the biggest, blackest eye you've ever seen. When I met her relatives the next day I had to talk fast to explain how she got that black eye.

Jolene has been a true "friend in need". When I got out of the hospital after my last operation, she took care of me, and has always been there for me when I needed her. Congratulations and best wishes, Jolene.

—*LeRoy "Bud" Waggoner*

Congratulations, Jolene, on being the first woman to be inducted into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. You've worked hard for many years promoting the game of shuffleboard, and The Board Talk. I must say, in all the years of having guests at the Eades Motel, you are the only one out of dozens and dozens who shows up with a sleeping bag and pillow. I enjoy having you with us, and you're welcome any time.

Your friend—*Eileen Eades*

Congratulations, Jolene, to your entry into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. You have always been a good competitor and credit to the game.

—*Jack Ahern*

## A Special Tribute from Jolene's Son . . .

My mother is a true lover of the game of shuffleboard. She literally lives, breathes and dreams this game that so defines her.

She gives selflessly of her time and energy to promote both the sport and the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, which is now a beacon of light for all the other states to follow.

She is always willing and ready to teach a novice or bet a pro. The only thing she loves as much as the game of shuffleboard is you—all of you, her “Shuffleboard Family”).

I can't imagine having a better mentor, or a better mom!

— *Mike Allen*

Jolene has kept shuffleboard alive, by helping promote the Board Talk and promoting shuffleboard in our bars.

She's a great teacher and one of the best shufflers in the world. This dear sweet woman has won our hearts *and* our money.

The Shuffleboard Hall of Fame was made for people like her!

Thank you, Love,

— *Charles Detterbeck*

Congratulations, Jolene.

You are an asset to the World of Shuffleboard. Without the help you gave us in starting our Missouri Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, I'm sure we would not be as far along as we are.

Thanks for coming and giving us a hand. We owe you a lot.

— *Rick Pittman*

*President, Missouri Shuffleboard Hall of Fame*

Jolene has shown us a great effort in supporting shuffleboard. From reporting tournament results to the Board Talk, to promoting tournaments in San Bernardino, and doing a fine job with the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

We need more people like her involved in the sport, to keep it going in the right direction.

— *Eric Chiles*



### **More from Jolene's Friends . . .**

I have known Jolene since the late 60's. I met her at the old Dixie on Carbon Canyon Road, south of Pomona. She would play all day and night with all the old pros in the area at that time. I heard that Jolene and Jeannie Mays enjoyed shuffleboard so much they would play against anyone who would play, for as long as they would play.

Jolene has been around the Edgewood since it began. She played in San Bernardino, Riverside, Long Beach, Bellflower, and at that time, that was all of them. She and her husband Roy moved to Bend, Oregon in the 80's. She said there was hardly anywhere to play there, but when they visited the Edgewood, she enjoyed playing all the time.

Jolene became one of the ambassadors of the game through The Board Talk. She and Roy traveled to the Corporate Image in Ft. Worth when the big games and tournaments were played there.

She has played in most of the big tournaments—Las Vegas, Reno, Southwest Open and recently she won the Women's Tournament in Livermore, and then the "bring your own partner" in Santa Clara. She is a credit to the game.

As the president, Jolene has given recognition to so many people in the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Now it's time for Jolene to get the recognition she deserves. Congratulations, Jolene.

*—Glenn Davidson*

Jolene, I've known you for over 25 years. I've played with you and against you, and still to this day, I can't beat you. You're a great lady and very deserving of this tribute.

*—"Bellflower" Bruce Hale*

## JOLENE'S FRIENDS SPEAK UP . . .

Just to let you know how we appreciate your friendliness and warm smile whenever we come down to the Silver Spur. Congratulations, Jolene.

— *Sam & Gina*

I just want to say that even though I don't know Jolene all that well, what I do know about her is this: She is one of the nicest, wittiest, and most helpful ladies I have met. Besides all this she is one of the best shuffleboard players I have had the privilege to know. Jolene is always trying to help people and promote shuffleboard. Frank and I love coming to her tournaments in California. We always have a great time because Jolene makes us feel so welcome.

I can't think of a more deserving lady to be put in the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

— *Connie & Frank Zavala*

Jolene has been a player, promoter, Board Talk reporter, and overall goodwill ambassador to the World of Shuffleboard for many, many years. Congratulations Jolene on your induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Your friend — *Karl Spickelmier*

Congratulations Jolene. I've known you for a long time.

You have always been one of the top women shuffleboard players, and many players respect you for your game and what you have done for shuffleboard.

Keep up the great work! Love ya!

— *Tommy Workman*



## JOLENE'S FRIENDS SPEAK OUT . . .

Congratulations Jolene on your induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. You're a great competitor and an asset to the game. You have been an inspiration for myself and many other women players. You and I have had many good times together playing on the same teams in Vegas, Reno, and other places. Thanks for being my partner and for being a good friend.

—*Joan Swenson Healey*

Hey, Jolie . . . Where have all the years gone, and how many? Seems like only yesterday that we were playing at the Oasis and Bob's. I won't tell if you won't.

We've had a lot of good times and a few bad ones, but we made it through them all, and we're still hanging in there.

I want to congratulate you on your being inducted into the Hall of Fame. You certainly deserve it, if anyone does, with all you've done to promote the game. Keep hanging, and most of all, keep winning.

Love — *Jean Mays*

I've known Jolene for over 30 years, so that should qualify me to say that she deserves this honor. Jolene has the first basic ingredient that everyone must have to become a Shuffleboard Hall of Famer—that is the love for the game.

She plays and promotes the game at every level. I feel that we California shuffleboarders are very fortunate to have her in our corner.

I personally feel very fortunate to have Jolene as my friend. So, Jolene, my hat's off to you and all your achievements.

May you always have the Hammer!

—*Bobby Goldsmith*