



**Nashville Old Timers
Baseball Association**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Franklin American Mortgage is 2015 Banquet Sponsor

Kenny Thomas, Chris Mercado, Ken Norfleet to be Honored

NASHVILLE, TN – January 6, 2015 – Old Timers Chief Financial Officer Tommy Parker announces that Franklin American Mortgage Company is the 2015 banquet sponsor. It is the fifth consecutive year that Franklin American has supported the organization's event.

Kenny Thomas, Chris Mercado, and Ken Norfleet will be honored at the Old Timers 77th annual banquet to be held on Thursday, January 22, 2015 at the Nashville Airport Marriott, 600 Marriott Dr. Former major leaguer Dale Murphy will be the featured banquet speaker.



Thomas will be inducted into the Nashville Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame. A graduate of Stratford High School, he accepted a baseball scholarship to Trevecca Nazarene University and in his senior year he was named 1978 first team NAIA All-American catcher.



After graduation Kenny started coaching summer baseball and took his Stan Musial (19-and-over) Webb Flooring Co. team to the Stan Musial World Series for three consecutive years, capturing the 1985 title. He has been head coach at Vol State where he took to the Junior College World Series. Currently in his 16th year at University of South Carolina-Aiken, he has twice been name Peach Belt Conference Coach of the Year.

Mercado, head coach of the South Nashville team that was one of eight teams to represent the U.S. during the 2013 and 2014 Little League World Series, will be honored as the Old Timers' 2015 "Mr. Baseball" selection. A graduate of John Overton High School, Chris attended Columbia State and Trevecca, Chris has been a driving force behind the South Nashville Little League program.



Norfleet is the 2015 Umpires Hall of Fame selection. An umpire in the area for 40 years, he is in charge of assigning TSSAA umpires in Rutherford County. He has been an adviser at college and TSSAA umpire camps and has organized many camps for sandlot umpires. Dedicated to the improvement of his craft and members of the profession, Ken has the respect of coaches and players throughout Tennessee.

The names of 2015 Scholarship Award recipients will released next week.

Formed in 1938 by a group of local baseball enthusiasts, the Old Timers organization is one of the oldest such organizations in the United States, celebrating its 77nd year of existence in 2015.

Banquet tickets are \$60 each and may be purchased at Hit after Hit, Nashville Sounds, Nashville Baseball Academy or from any Old Timers board member. The doors open at 5:30 and the banquet begins at 6:30 PM. The even will include a silent and live auction. Call Old Timers president Bart Leathers (586-0352), Farrell Owens (269-7348), Rip Ryman (319-8459) or visit www.otbaseball.com for more information.