

Ronald G. Bruno Recognized as Distinguished Alabama Sportsman 2009

BIRMINGHAM, AL. - The Board of Directors of the State of Alabama Sports Hall of Fame is proud to announce that Ronald G. Bruno has been named the Distinguished Alabama Sportsman for 2009.

Mr. Bruno has been a business leader in this community for more than thirty years. His family's philanthropy efforts have enriched hundreds of thousands of individual lives in this city and state over the years and will continue to do so in the future.

He graduated from the University of Alabama with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing. Following graduation, he started working for the Bruno's Supermarkets, Inc., holding various management positions from 1974 through 1991. In 1991, he became Chairman and CEO and held that position until the company was sold in 1995.

His family's philosophy of giving back to the community combined with their passion for golf lead Mr. Bruno and his father, Angelo, to start an annual golf tournament in Birmingham on the Senior PGA TOUR in 1992. Tragically, just weeks after the press conference to officially announce the tournament, Angelo Bruno, his brother, Lee Bruno, and seven other valued company associates were killed when the company's plane crashed. After the accident the tournament was renamed the Bruno's Memorial Classic.

The tournament has become an annual tradition for Birmingham area residents, drawing some of the largest crowds on the Senior PGA TOUR. The Bruno's Memorial Classic was recognized as the Best Champions TOUR event by players, tournament officials and media in a Sports Illustrated poll in both 2001 and 2004, the only times the award has been given.

In 2006, Regions Financial Corporation became the event's title sponsor, changing the name to the Regions Charity Classic. Last year's tournament celebrated a milestone as it surpassed ten million dollars in charitable giving to the Alabama community. Giving back to the community was the initial reason for starting the tournament and this milestone is something the entire community can take pride in.

After retiring from Bruno's Supermarkets, Inc. in 1995, he founded an investment company, Bruno Capital Management, where he currently serves as president. Later that same year, he formed the Bruno Event Team with partner Gene Hallman and serves as its chairman.

The Bruno Event Team has grown to encompass five separate divisions employing more than 50 full-time employees in eight offices throughout the United States. The five divisions include Golf, Five Star Catering, Zoom Motorsports, University of Alabama Gameday Operations and Think + Creative Services. The company is also affiliated with the Alabama Sports Foundation, managing numerous events for the Foundation. The Golf Division alone currently manages five annual tournaments on the Champions, LPGA and Nationwide TOURS. Bruno Event Team has managed, for the United States Golf Association, five of the last seven U.S. Women's Opens and every U.S. Senior Open since 2004. They are also currently managing a combined five Senior and Women's Opens through 2013.

Mr. Bruno has served on numerous charitable and corporate boards over the past 25 years. The charitable boards include St. Vincent's Hospital Foundation where he served as President, United Way

where he served as Campaign Co-Chairman and Tocqueville Society Chairman as well as the Metropolitan Development Board. He is also very active with the University of Alabama, serving on the President's Cabinet and has served as Chairman of the Board of Visitors at the College of Commerce and Business. He has also sat on the board of directors for the following corporations: SouthTrust Bank, Bruno's Supermarkets, Inc. and Russell Corporation; he currently sits on the board of directors for Books-A-Million.

He was inducted into the Birmingham Golf Hall of Fame in 1994.

Mr. Bruno and his wife, Lee Ann, have one son, Gregory. The family attends Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church.

Mr. Bruno will be enshrined as the Distinguished Alabama Sportsman at the 41st Annual Alabama Sports Hall of Fame Induction ceremonies on Saturday, May 30 at the Birmingham Ballroom in the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel. Previous Distinguished Alabama Sportsmen include Dr. Wilford Bailey, Dr. David Bronner, Bill Ireland, Michael Stephens, Hall Thompson and Jack Warner.

Mr. Bruno joins the Class of 2009 sports greats which include: Larry Blakeney (football), Steve Bolt (track), Tommy Brooker (football), Janelle Kirtley Godfrey (water skiing), Charles Hannah (football), Jimmy Key (baseball), Lee May (baseball), and John Mitchell (football).

For more information on the May 30 induction banquet call the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame at 877-323-6665.

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