



USTA Louisiana
9270 Siegen Ln
Suite 702
Baton Rouge, La, 70810

Telephone: 225.769.0337
marketing@louisianatennis.com
louisianatennis.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Three Tennis Legends Inducted into Louisiana Tennis Hall of Fame

BATON ROUGE – October 22, 2019 – The Louisiana Tennis Hall of Fame Committee and USTA Louisiana announced last week three tennis legends will be inducted into the 2019 class of the Louisiana Tennis Hall of Fame.

John Liles, of Shreveport, La., is a highly-regarded volunteer and former USTA Louisiana President and current LTA Board Member, who serves on numerous state committees.

Others to be inducted are Kay McDaniel, of Cleveland, TN., who grew up in Shreveport, Louisiana and was a three-time All-American tennis player at LSU. Following this, she had an outstanding professional tennis career. Pierremont Oaks, one of the premier tennis clubs in the United States, is the third inductee. All are scheduled to be inducted December 6, 2019, during the Louisiana Tennis Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, in Baton Rouge.

The Louisiana Tennis Hall of Fame was established in 1984 with the induction of the New Orleans Lawn Tennis Club. Since that time, the Hall of Fame has grown and will include 40 members after this induction ceremony. The Hall of Fame honors those individuals or facilities that have made significant contributions to Louisiana Tennis, have accomplishments in tennis as a player, coach, official or volunteer and those that have shown great sportsmanship and character.

John Liles

John didn't begin tennis until the age of thirty-five. He entered the league has a 3.5 and was bumped to 4.0 for a short time. He laughs, "didn't stay there long." John captained 3.5 Men's teams for over eight years. John's team did win State in 1990 as wildcard because the winning team from Lafayette could not put a team together. They went on to win Sectionals in Chattanooga and placed 3rd at nationals in Tucson. Over the years John and his teams did play in several state championships, but not in any other Sectional or National tournaments.

In 1993, John was asked if Shreveport would be interested in taking over a national tournament that needed a new home. The initial 1994 Tournament Committee received no information on the format or how the tournament was to be run. All they knew was that all seventeen sections would be playing on clay courts for a week. The committee successfully developed a round robin match format like USTA

League state tournaments. What they initiated worked very well for the tournament that year and has remained in place and been successful now for twenty-five years. To keep the costs of referees low, John recruited new officials and brought in certification classes locally so our city would have officials that would not need hotels provided. This proved to be a great decision and implementation. The National 16's Intersectional Championships that began in Shreveport during July 1994 continues today, growing and becoming more successful each year.

John was a certified tennis official for over twenty years. He has refereed for juniors, USTA League, and college matches over the many years. He also volunteered his referee services to many junior matches. As John's involvement in the local tennis community continued, he was elected to serve on the USTA Louisiana Board of Directors as the NW Regional Representative in 1995. He also served as Vice President and Executive Vice President. In 2002-2003, he served as President of USTA Louisiana and began volunteering at the USTA Southern Section.

He has chaired, co-chaired and been a member of committees as follows National USTA – Awards Committee for eight years, Southern USTA - Financial & Budget, Investment, Community Development, Adaptive Tennis, Awards, CGPG, CTA, Human Resources, Marketing, and Public Relations Committees, Southern Sectional Awards Committee Chairman, Southern USTA Board of Directors Treasurer for six years, Local CTA - League Coordinator, Treasurer and he has trained coordinators and is an invaluable resource to the local tennis community

During John's twenty five years of service, he received in 1997 the LTA Charles Turner Volunteer Service Award, The President's Award in 2006, and in 2015 the Charlie B. Morris Jr. Service Award in recognition of his service at the local, state, section and national levels of the USTA.

In Shreveport in 1991 John served as a local league coordinator and has continued to be an actively involved, volunteer, and assist in the growth of tennis ever since. He has been a certified tennis official for over twenty years. The Northwest Louisiana CTA has been recognized many times as CTA of The Year by the LTA and there is no doubt we would not be as successful if it was not for the hard work and leadership of John.

You will not find any gold, silver or bronze balls or trophies on John's mantle as he was a homegrown, grassroots tennis volunteer that began playing tennis at the age of 35. John is a no nonsense straight up individual. He speaks his mind and even those who may disagree with him on a topic, would all agree he always demonstrates the highest level of character. This was evident in his on-court sportsmanship as well in his off-court leadership and participation at all levels of USTA activity.

John is a wealth of knowledge and information and an invaluable resource to our tennis community he continues to support tennis functions at a local and state level and is truly a vital and important part of the NWLA CTA, LTA, Southern USTA, and USTA!

Kay McDaniel

Kay was a three-time All-American tennis player at Louisiana State University in the late 1970s. She reached the semifinals two consecutive years and was named to the USTA Jr. Federation Cup team. Playing the national 21 and under circuit, she was listed #1 nationally in the 1978 USTA 21 and under rankings. In 1984, at the height of her professional career, Kay reached a ranking of #38 in the world. Two highlights of her esteemed years on the tour were playing on national TV at the US Open, splitting sets with Yvonne Goolagong and reaching the singles round of 32 at Wimbledon.

In 2009, Kay was named to the Southern Tennis Association Hall of Fame for her tennis achievements and

also for her work at Lee University in Cleveland, TN where she served as women's tennis coach for many years. In addition, Dr. Kay McDaniel achieved her doctorate in Exercise Science and Leisure Management and serves on the faculty at Lee University.

Pierremont Oaks

Pierremont Oaks Tennis Club was founded in 1962 and is recognized as one of the premier tennis clubs in the United States. POTC hosted The USTA Girls' 14 National Championships in 1975 and 1976 and hosted The USTA Boys' 14 National Championships from 1977-1989. During that time, many players who competed at POTC later became household names. These players included Tracy Austin, Pam Shriver, Pete Sampras, Jim Courier, Andre Agassi and Patrick McEnroe. Pierremont Oaks also received the LTA Outstanding Facility of the Year Award in both 2016 and 2017.

In 1994, Pierremont Oaks continued its tradition of hosting prestigious, national junior tournaments by being awarded the USTA Intersectional 16s Team Championships. In recognition of excellence, the USTA has continued to give this event back to POTC for 25 years, up to the present time. This is largely due to the outstanding work of Grady Wilson, Tennis Director at Pierremont. His advocacy for the tournament, his responsiveness to the USTA and spirit of cooperation, his astute perception of the needs of the players (and coaches) and his tireless efforts to constant improve the event in measurable ways has been the greatest single factor in keeping the Intersectionals at POTC. In the process, Grady has greatly improved the facilities at the club as well as attracting top junior events and a women's professional satellite tournament this past summer. There is new life at Pierremont - energy; excitement and a high level of activity.

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The **USTA** is the national governing body for the sport of tennis in the U.S. and the leader in promoting and developing the growth of tennis at every level – from local communities to the highest level of the professional game. It owns and operates the US Open, the largest annually attended sporting event in the world, and launched the **Emirates Airline US Open Series** linking seven summer tournaments to the US Open. In addition, it owns about 90 Pro Circuit events throughout the U.S., and selects the teams for the Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Olympic and Paralympic games. A not-for-profit organization with more than 655,000 members, it invests 100 percent of its proceeds in growing the game. It is divided into 17 sections, of which **USTA Southern** is the largest. The 160,000+ USTA members living in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee make up USTA Southern, and account for nearly 25 percent of the total USTA membership. A professional staff housed in Peachtree Corners, Ga., carries out USTA Southern’s daily operations, but policy is formed and much of the organization’s work is executed via a board and committee structure of more than 200 volunteers. For more information about the types of programs and services offered by USTA Southern, visit www.southerntennis.com.

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Media Contact:

Liz Azcona, USTA Louisiana

W: 225-769-0337

marketing@louisianatennis.com