2014 EMCC SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

THOMAS M. ADKINS

Having spent much of his early life in Scooba when not traveling the world as the son of a United States Army Officer, Thomas M. Adkins returned to the United States in 1966 and attended DeKalb Attendance Center for his junior and senior years of high school. After collecting All-Chocotaw Conference honors in baseball for Coach Knox Dudley and in football for Coach Billy Brown at DeKalb, Adkins earned a scholarship to play for Hall of Fame football coach Bob “Bull” Sullivan at East Mississippi Junior College. However, a twice-broken collar bone limited him to only three games played on the gridiron as a freshman, forcing Adkins to switch gears full-time to the baseball diamond. Playing two seasons at third base and pitching for long-time EMJC baseball coach Gerald Poole, Adkins capped his Scooba stint by garnering North Division All-Star baseball honors as a sophomore. That success led to an opportunity to attend the University of Southern Mississippi, where he received both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in political science and criminal justice along with lettering two seasons in baseball. After posting an impressive .373 career batting average for Coach Pete Taylor’s USM Golden Eagles, Adkins reported to the United States Marine Corps’ Officer Candidates School in 1974. While maintaining his participation in competitive athletics throughout his distinguished military career, Adkins spent 14 years of his 25-year Marine Corps career in command positions and was deployed on numerous exercises and operations in support of Marine Corps combat and peacekeeping activities throughout the world. The recipient of numerous prestigious military awards, Lieutenant Colonel Adkins retired from active duty in 1999. Following military retirement, he became the associate director of the Technology Resource Institute, an economic development administration-funded university center, in the College of Business at Mississippi State University. Having retired from full-time work with MSU in 2011, Adkins is currently part-time with the University’s Center for Distance Education along with managing his own business consulting company. Now living in Starkville, Adkins is married to the former Barbara Ann Dernbach, of Billings, Mont., and they have one son, Cody, who works for the United States Department of Agriculture in Jackson.