2014 EMCC SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

DON MASSEY

As a member of the 10-0-1 Meridian High School football team that laid claim to an uncrowned Big 8 Conference title in 1957, Don Massey was recruited to East Mississippi Junior College by Hall of Fame football coach Bob “Bull” Sullivan. Following an excellent spring practice showing, Massey earned a spot on the Lions’ 1959 football team and saw action at quarterback and defensive back while also holding for field goals and extra-point attempts. Military duty called after one year on the Scooba campus, and Massey began serving a seven-year stint in the United States Marine Corps. Along with earning his jump wings at Fort Benning, Ga., Massey continued his college education and attempted to rekindle his football career. After suffering a leg injury at Mississippi College, he was invited to join the football team at Livingston State University (now the University of West Alabama). After earning his bachelor’s degree in history and social sciences at Livingston State in 1967, Massey began teaching and coaching football at West Lauderdale High School. During a brief coaching stint at Warrior Academy in Eutaw, Ala., he completed his first Master of Education degree in administration from Livingston State in 1970. Massey then returned to West Lauderdale as the school’s principal for four years prior to an eight-year administrative stint as principal at Union High School. After adding a second Master of Education degree in counseling from Mississippi State University in 1977, Massey spent the next 17-plus years working in the Neshoba County School District as an elementary counselor, high school counselor and middle school assistant principal. Outside of the classroom as a member of the United States Parachute Association, he started static line/freefall training in 1997 with the Zoo City Skydivers in Yazoo City. Massey has been married 49 years to the former Glenda Keen of Union, and they have three sons – Eddie, Donnie and Nic – along with eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.