

2018 Brunswick Distinguished Citizens
Elizabeth & Emory Frye
by Julie Maynard

In 2018 the Brunswick Distinguished Citizens committee is honoring a couple who have been gone for several years but will be remembered by many people as pillars of Brunswick.

The couple lived in Rosemont but were active in the Brunswick and Lovettsville communities. Emory Frye died in 1983. His wife, Elizabeth Richardson Frye, died in 2007. They left no near relatives, but due to their work here over the decades, their influence is still being felt.

Emory Frye had a big impact on the community through his work at the Bank of Brunswick, but today he may be most fondly remembered for his advocacy of Little League baseball. Mr. Frye was inducted into the Alvin G. Quinn Frederick County YMCA Sports Hall of Fame in 1995 for his impact on area baseball programs. He spent the last 28 years of his life as a leader in the youth organization. Always a baseball fan, Mr. Frye became fascinated with the Little League movement when he saw a young player proudly wearing his brand new uniform when the miniature game debuted in Brunswick, or so reported Garel Hauver in a story about Frye.

"Several years later he related how the excitement and happiness over that uniform had radiated through the player's eyes and caught his attention," Hauver wrote.

Mr. Frye went to work for the new Little League as player-agent. In 1956 he was elected president of the Railroader Little League. He headed the league for six years until being named District Administrator of District II in 1963. He also served on the Little League national level. "Mr. Frye was totally committed to area youth and to the sport of baseball," reads his biography at the Sports Hall of Fame.

"I played a little bit of baseball in high school in Lovettsville," Frye once said. "I was a real Washington Senators fan and remember going to Griffith Stadium to watch them play. My father worked for the railroad, and he would get passes and we'd take the train to Union Station. Then we'd walk about a mile and a half to the park. The only money I'd spend on those trips to the Senators' games was ten cents each for a hot dog and Coke."

Frye watched the great Walter Johnson pitch for Washington in the 1925 World Series, and once saw the immortal Babe Ruth play.

Emory Vibart Frye grew up in Lovettsville. He won a scholarship to Strayer College where he majored in accounting and business administration. Frye worked several jobs before he began at the Bank of Brunswick in 1933. Working his way up the ladder, he eventually became bank president and was often called upon to be a community leader. For instance, he headed the search committee when Brunswick needed to bring a doctor to town in the early 1970s. Mr. Frye helped find Dr. Wayne Allgaier, Rick Weldon wrote in an article about the doctor's retirement. "Mr. Frye helped the young Allgaiers find a home, along with a home loan."

Upon his retirement in 1965, Mr. Frye became Chairman of the Board at the bank. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame posthumously. His widow, Elizabeth Frye, accepted the honor on his behalf. She had always been at Mr. Frye's side during local baseball