

# Class of 1950

## SHORTRIDGE HALL OF FAME

### MAX B. SCHUMACHER

Max Schumacher, President and Chairman of the Board of the Indianapolis Indians has been with that organization for 55 years. He was born in Indianapolis in 1932, and graduated from Shortridge in 1950. A graduate from Butler University in 1954, he played varsity baseball team during his four years. He was Editor of the school's newspaper, *The Collegian*, and received a Bachelor's degree in Journalism.

Mr. Schumacher signed on as ticket manager of the Indianapolis Indians in 1957; assumed the added duties of publicity director during the 1959-60 seasons, and became general manager in 1961. In April 1969, he was named President of the Indians following Owen J. Bush's retirement

Among his many achievements, in 1980, he was named a *Sagamore of the Wabash* by Governor Otis Bowen. In 1988, Schumacher received *the John H. Johnson President's Award* as being the 'individual most closely associated with a Minor League Baseball team' that "exemplifies the standards of a complete baseball franchise." Following the 1996 campaign and the opening of Victory Field, a dream long envisioned by Schumacher, he earned American Association Executive of the Year honors and the franchise received the Bob Freitas Award as the top Triple-A team. Minor League Baseball honored Schumacher as the "King of Baseball" in 1997 for his long-time dedication and service to the game. He was named Chairman of the Board of the Tribe following the 1997 season

In 2002, Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson renamed the street leading into Victory Field 'Schumacher Way'. Governor Mitch Daniels conferred a second *Sagamore of the Wabash* award to Schumacher in 2006. The Indians have received numerous awards during Max Schumacher's tenure. *Baseball America* honored the Tribe as its Triple-A Team of the Decade for the 1990's. The same publication recognized Victory Field as the "Best Minor League Ballpark in America in 1999. This award was confirmed by *Sports Illustrated* and *MinorLeagueNews.com* in 2001. In 2005, *At The Yard* magazine recognized the franchise as its Minor League Team of the Year.

Butler University awarded the Robert Todd Duncan Alumni Achievement Award to Mr. Schumacher in 2003, and inducted him into its Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005.

He's been generous with his time to many civic organizations; namely, as past President of the Indianapolis Downtown Kiwanis Club, the Boys and Girls Clubs, and the American Business Club and a past Chairman of Junior Baseball of Indianapolis. The Thomas W. Moses Good Scout Award was proffered on Schumacher in April 2008 for his strong community service, social responsibility and having "a true scout spirit." In recognition of all this, he received an Honorary Degree as Associate of Science in College and Community Service in 2009. The Indians organization, in recognition of his five decades of tireless leadership, dedicated The Max Schumacher Victory Bell in 2011 to celebrate 125 consecutive seasons of professional baseball in Indianapolis.

Senator Richard Lugar writes: "To this day, Max tirelessly builds upon the foundation of his Shortridge experience for the betterment of our community while bringing further recognition to our alma mater.