

**DONALD P. CHAUVIN**  
**AHS - 1957 - 1962**



Donald Patrick Chauvin is the son of Robert & Enola Chauvin, Sr., and was the 4<sup>th</sup> of 6 children. He attended Mt. Carmel in the first and second grade, and then he transferred to Abbeville High School when the entire campus (grades 1 thru 12) was located on Prairie Avenue.

He continues to have a vivid recollection of his 7<sup>th</sup> grade year at AHS. Anthony Fontana was the band director of the AHS Marching Band, and Fontana invited the 7<sup>th</sup> grade band students to be a part of his proud marching band. Coincidentally, that year the AHS band was invited to march in President Dwight D. Eisenhower's second inauguration parade. Don recalls the long bus ride to D.C. and the inaugural parade. The local Abbeville community was most generous as they funded the entire cost of this event as the band held many fund raising events to defer costs.

Don began his athletic career during his freshman year. Hall of Famer Bill Gooch served as his freshman J.V. coach. He laments that the J.V. team had old hand-me-down equipment. His first helmet that year had no face mask, and as you might expect, led to many facial scars. His second year was much better as he was privileged to wear better gear. His high school coach was the legendary Sam Scelfo. Another Hall of Famer, Coach Tommy Broussard, was an assistant along with Coach Gooch. Don was a guard on both offense and defense and yes, athletes played both offense and defense in those days.

Don garnered second team All-District recognition his senior season. In addition, Coach Scelfo selected Don and fellow player Russell Dehart to coach the football team during spring practice as Scelfo was coaching the AHS baseball team and couldn't devote time to the spring football practice. Coach Gooch was busy building an outstanding track program and was being assisted by Coach Tommy. This left student athletes to handle any football duties.

Some of Don's teammates during this time were Lindsey Landry, Gerald Hebert, Russell Dehart, Hayes Boudreaux, Jim "Crow" Hebert, Donald "Nose" Mouton, Troy Arnold, Clifton Alleman, Wesley Broussard, Jimmy Robicheaux, Jimmy Duhon, Joey Hebert, Karl Weill, Jr., Johnny Boudreaux, Charlie Dupuy, "Chubby" Alleman, Glen Touchet, "Boo Boo" Broussard and Larry Griffin to name a few. Nearly all of these AHS alumni have remained lifelong friends.

Don graduated Abbeville High School in 1962, and chose to continue his education at LSU, majoring in accounting. These were turbulent times as America was engaged in the Vietnam conflict and our schools and universities were finally integrating races into campus life.

In June of 1964 Don married Janet Young and the couple recently celebrated their 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary. Don worked as an accountant for Oil Field Valve service for a few years, and he then went to work for American Tobacco Company as a factory representative. He later was hired by a small northeast bakery company known as Keebler. Keebler wanted to extend their marketing reach throughout the United States and Don was responsible for much of Keebler's efforts in Louisiana.

In 1970, Don joined his dad in the operation of an H & R Block franchise in Abbeville. It was during this time in his life that he became involved with various community service projects for which he is best known.

He and the late James N. Hebert organized the Abbeville Youth Football League. Once again, the Vermilion Parish community proved very generous in their donations to this cause. Over time the league expanded from the original 4 teams in Abbeville and added 2 teams from Erath and 1 from Kaplan. This AYFL provided an opportunity for 10, 11, and 12 year old boys to get introduced to football. Some of the early coaches in addition to Don and Jim were “Boo” Landry, Wallace Frederick, Curnal Cessac, Jeffery Bourque, Ned Goutierrez Jr., Dr. David Tate, and Franz Bazar.

Don also coached the Gulf Coast Premix Little League baseball team in the Riceland Little League. In addition he served as the league’s President for several years.

Don served as Chairman of the Abbeville Parks and Recreation Commission. He was appointed by then Mayor Jimmy Vorhoff. The Commission was responsible for the operation of the City of Abbeville’s parks and recreation system.

During this same time, Don became active with the Abbeville High School Boosters Club and eventually was selected President of this organization. At that time, the Boosters were only active during football season and it was mostly a “greet and eat” organization. Don knew they could do much more for athletics and he set out to find additional opportunities for the Boosters to serve the athletic needs of Abbeville High School.

This desire to do more led to a momentous meeting with then Head Coach and Athletic Director Mike Conlin. Early in 1976, Don met with Coach Conlin to discuss things the Boosters could do to help all of the athletic programs at Abbeville High. Coach Conlin provided a list of needed material things, and then he challenged Don to form an athletic hall of fame. Coach Conlin emphasized the rich traditions of the school and the outstanding accomplishments of its athletes. He hoped that this hall of honor would encourage the young athletes at the school to excel, hoping that someday they too would be enshrined into the Hall of Fame.

Don went to work and the Abbeville High School Athletic Hall of Fame was indeed created. The first two inductees were enshrined in 1977. You may read more about the history at <http://ahshof.com/info/history.html>. There were several key people that were instrumental in the development of the Hall of Fame, namely Mrs. Barbara Lemaire, Donald Toups, and Harris Lemaire. Don doubts that the Hall of Fame would exist today were it not for these people.

In addition to athletics, Don Chauvin was involved in other organizations. He was a member of the Lions Club, the Chamber of Commerce, Abbeville Historical Alliance, and he was a board member of the Abbeville Country Club. He is a Past President of the Rotary Club of Abbeville and served as Rotary International District 6200 Governor in 2005-2006. During Don’s tenure as Governor he raised and managed the distribution of two million dollars in contributions to Hurricanes Katrina/Rita relief efforts. He continues to serve an active role in Rotary to this day.

Today, Don serves as the CEO of FACTS-5 Business Services, Inc. located in Abbeville. He is semi-retired working primarily during tax season and enjoying the remainder of a calendar year doing what the heck he wishes to do – namely watching LSU and Saints football.

Don is married to Janet Young, a Shreveport native. Don and Janet are the proud parents of Todd Chauvin (Lexington, SC), Pamela Chauvin-Trahan, Kimberly Chauvin-Etie, and Clayton Chauvin (Abbeville, LA).

Don would like to thank the Hall of Fame Selection Committee for their recognition of his lifetime of work serving his community.

Rotary International's motto is "SERVICE ABOVE SELF." Don hopes that he has lived up to that motto.