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Crete 'Mr. Baseball' to join hall of fame

Howard L. Waltman, a former Crete, Neb., and Farwell, Neb., resident, will be inducted posthumously into the Nebraska Baseball Hall of Fame and receive the Old Timer Award at the annual banquet, March 22, at the American Legion in Garland, Neb.

Waltman, who originally arrived in Nebraska on an "orphan train" in 1917, played minor league baseball as well as local semiprofessional baseball and was later a coach until age 70. He was known in Crete as "Mr. Baseball."

Other inductees include players Ray Novak of Omaha, a pitcher and first baseman who played at Nebraska and in the Nebraska Independent League; Don Brown of Omaha, who played at Nebraska; Dennis Beckman of Bellevue, an infielder for Garland and West Point; and Gary Neibauer of Scottsbluff, a pitcher who played in the major leagues with both Atlanta and Philadelphia.

Others to be inducted are managers Bob Steinkamp of the Beatrice Bruins and Bill Beebe of Stromsburg and umpire Bill Kinmon.

Banquet reservations (\$10 for adults, \$5 for children) are available until Sunday and can be made by contacting the Nebraska Baseball Hall of Fame, 3110 Pointe Circle, Lincoln, 68506. — **Rob White**

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