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PRESS RELEASE

REECE NAMED 2025 SOUTHEAST LEFTY GOMEZ REGIONAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The late Vernon “Lefty” Gomez was one of Babe Ruth League’s most dedicated volunteers. One of the reasons he was so committed to the program was that he witnessed firsthand the positive impact Babe Ruth League had on its young participants.

The “Lefty Gomez Volunteer of the Year” Regional Award Winner Program was introduced in 2023. The eight Babe Ruth League Regional Commissioners select one volunteer from their region who has gone above and beyond to promote and further develop the Babe Ruth League program to receive this prestigious award.



Sarah Reece of Altamonte Springs, Florida, was selected by Southeast Regional Commissioner John Lucas as the 2025 recipient.¹

Lucas said, “The Lefty Gomez Volunteer of the Year Award is among the highest honors to be bestowed upon a regional volunteer. Its recipient must embody the spirit of the Babe Ruth League philosophy, which is to provide the best possible sports experience for every child wanting to play. Sarah Reece admirably and enthusiastically exemplifies this philosophy.”

Reece began her involvement with Babe Ruth League in 1995 as the Founder of the Altamonte Springs Babe Ruth League. She served as League President from 1995 to 1999. Under her leadership, she helped the city host the Babe Ruth Bambino World Series in 1995.

Furthermore, Reece served as the District 8 Commissioner for the Florida Babe Ruth Leagues from 1999 until 2005 and took on the role of State Treasurer in 2021. Since 2006, she has held the position of Assistant State Commissioner for Florida Babe Ruth.

Reece's greatest accomplishment was the creation of the Central Florida Babe Ruth Bambino Buddy Ball League in 2008, a baseball program designed for players with special needs, including children in walkers, wheelchairs, or those with restricted mobility. What distinguishes this program is that each participant is paired with a "buddy" who assists them in hitting, throwing, and navigating the bases. These buddies consist of adult volunteers or responsible older children. Reece has held the position of League President since the league was founded.

Professionally, Reece is the Vice-Mayor of Altamonte Springs. Over the years, she has served in various other leadership and operational capacities, such as

????Sarah Reece has resided in Altamonte Springs since 1977 and was elected to the Altamonte Springs City Commission in 1999. She was recently recognized by the Florida League of Cities for 25 years of service.

Besides receiving the 2025 Babe Ruth "Lefty Gomez Volunteer of the Year" Regional Award, Reece was

Babe Ruth League, Inc. is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to developing better citizens by providing properly supervised baseball and softball competition for 4- through 18-year-old players. It is the basic intent of Babe Ruth League that every player who has a desire to play the sport is allowed to participate and have fun.