

VIRGINIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME



Media Release

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Virginia Sports Hall of Fame to Honor Dennis Ellmer with the Distinguished Virginian Award

*Priority Automotive President and CEO, is the catalyst that helped revive
the Charity Bowl*

(VIRGINIA BEACH, VA) – The Virginia Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors has selected Dennis Ellmer, for its 2020 Distinguished Virginian Award, just the fifth time in the Hall’s history the award has been presented. Named in honor of 2005 Hall of Fame inductee, Steve Guback, the award recognizes individuals who have used sports as a philanthropic platform in the Commonwealth. The presentation of the award will take place on Saturday, April 25, 2020, as part of the 49th Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at Zeiders American Dream Theater in Town Center of Virginia Beach.

Ellmer, the President and CEO of Priority Automotive Group, founded Priority in 1999 and now oversees 18 dealerships stretching from Northern Virginia to Charlotte, NC. In 2010, Ellmer became involved in the longest running charity football game in North America, the Charity Bowl, and helped revive the game from the brink of

VIRGINIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

cancellation. Historically, the Charity Bowl's sole beneficiary had been the Joy Fund, yet support for the game had dwindled. 10 years later, the 2019 Charity Bowl alone raised over \$520,000 which has supported 35 Hampton Roads charitable organizations.

"Dennis Ellmer's passion for this area is second to none", says Charity Bowl President, Troy Clifton. "Dennis doesn't do anything halfway, and Dennis has always had a passion for giving back."

"When discussing the Distinguished Virginian Award and potential candidates, there was one name the Board gravitated to, and that was Dennis Ellmer," says Hall of Fame Executive Director, Will Driscoll. "There are so many great things that can be done using sports as a platform. The Hall of Fame is proud to honor Dennis, and the contributions he has made to his community through his work with the Charity Bowl."

Previous recipients of the Distinguished Virginian Award include E. Claiborne Robbins, Jr. (2009), G. Robert Aston, Jr. ('11), Elmon T. Gray ('12), and Dr. Frank C. McCue III ('13).

The Distinguished Virginian Award will be presented April 25 during the 49th Induction Ceremony at Zeiders Theater in Virginia Beach, as part of the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame's 2020 Induction Weekend, presented by Priority Automotive Group. 2020 Induction Weekend is April 24-25 in Town Center of Virginia Beach. For event and ticket information on the Induction Weekend festivities, please visit www.VaSportsHOF.com

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About Steve Guback VSHF Class of 2005:

Steve Guback spent 75 years covering sports on the local, regional, and national levels for publications in Virginia and Washington D.C. Writing primarily for the Richmond Times Dispatch, and Washington Star, Guback was named Virginia/District of Columbia Sportswriter three times, and served on the Pro Football Hall of Fame selection committee. A 1989 inductee into the U.S. Basketball Writers Hall of Fame,

VIRGINIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Guback served as director of information for the President Ronald Reagan's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

About the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame:

Since 1972, the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame has been proud to honor Virginia's contributions to the world of sports. As the Commonwealth's official hall of fame, our mission is to honor athletic excellence, serve as a nonprofit resource highlighting philanthropy through sports, while inspiring sports fans through programming and engaging entertainment.