

## **2023 Hall of Fame Inductee David Baker – Aurora**

Dave “Chick” Baker, who hails from the small town of Snyder, Colorado, was once an Italian umpire. In 1960 while stationed in Aviano, Italy along with being part of United States Air Force, he was also registered with the Italian Sports Federation. But instead of making his mark in the “Wild Blue Yonder” the Air Force kept him firmly grounded in the middle of a baseball diamond, or a basketball court, or a volleyball court where Baker displayed his versatility. Not only was he a player but could also be counted on as an official when needed. Without Baker, it just didn’t get done.

His last duty post was Lowry Air Force Base in Aurora, Colorado where he began his Colorado officiating career in 1971, a career eventually spanning seven generations. “Chick” Baker umpired five state championship baseball games, and worked several state football title games as well. He also worked basketball. Employing his usual versatility, besides his career as an umpire, he worked a combined thirty-seven football and basketball post-season tournaments.

Today, “Chick” Baker is being honored for all he has done for CHSBUA both on and off the field or court. He was an outstanding three-sport official, served with distinction as CHSBUA President from 1984 - 1987, CHSBUA Executive Committee member, and for several of the previously mentioned generations, was the CHSBUA Secretary/Treasurer. He helped plan and coordinate many previous CHSBUA Master Clinics as well lend a helping hand to Joe Rossi in getting the Hall of Fame established. In a career spanning seven generations and almost fifty years, this small-town kid from Snyder just got things done.