

Hugh Ellis Walker '52 – 2011 Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee

A native of Drew, Hugh Ellis Walker Sr. boasts an impressive resume, highlighted by graduating with honors from Delta State in 1952. After completing his high school education in Drew and Clarksdale Public Schools, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps and studied at Northwest Mississippi Community College. On the Statesmen campus, he presided over the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Mississippi Intercollegiate Council at Delta State, where he also lettered in football and tennis and was named Mr. Delta State Teachers College. Post-college education continued at the University of Alabama and Vanderbilt University.

Walker coached football and served as athletic director for several North Mississippi high schools—Durant, Louisville and Indianola. Eight years of coaching netted him two conference championships in football, being selected to coach in the Mississippi High School All Star Football Game in 1954, and serving on the organizing committee for the Mississippi Association of Coaches. In 1996, he was honored with the Lawrence Stewart Athletic Service Award.

In the 1960s, Walker worked in the insurance industry. Then in 1969, he joined Delta State as alumni secretary, serving in that post until 1987, when he was named director of the alumni foundation. During his tenure, he served as a faculty/staff representative to Omicron Delta Kappa, a national honorary leadership fraternity. The Delta State SGA honored Walker, also a Delta State Hall of Fame inductee, with the Distinguished Service Award in 1993. The Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni Foundation House was dedicated in 1996.

Walker's community involvement extends to First Baptist Church in Cleveland as a deacon, Cleveland Noon Lions Club as past president and loyal member, and Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce as a member of the Board of Directors. In the mid-1980s, the local Lions Club presented him with the Distinguished Service Award. For each of the two terms he served as chairman of the membership committee in the mid 1990s, the chamber of commerce presented him with the President's Award. In 1998, he was elected city alderman.

Married to Eloise Stratton Walker for 60 years, the Walkers have two children—Hugh Ellis Walker Jr. and Sheri Lynn Walker Wright—and five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

