

Jim Coates

From: B Campau

I'd like to vote for Jim Coates as a Crown Hall of Fame 2017 inductee. While I've only known Jim personally for the past four years, I've followed him and the continuing success of Crown since he joined several years ago as CEO. Serving on the Board, I find Jim to not only have a brilliant touch with the corps itself, but also a very keen, astute perspective as a businessman. He displays strong leadership, logical thinking, and the ability to work well with staff, faculty, members, donors, & the Board. He has established excellent relationships with his peers, and has strong headship and interpersonal skills that have been unanimously praised by colleagues throughout Drum Corps International.

Jim is a valuable asset to Crown, as over the years, he's contributed greatly to the expansion of the organization, promotion of our organization's products, image, and competitive success.

2017 Hall of Fame
Letter of Support
Nominee: Jim Coates

I would like to extend my support for Jim Coates to be inducted to the 2017 Carolina Crown Hall of Fame.

Without restating much of what has been said, I will say that I don't think there is any doubt, that we would not be in a position to impact the lives of as many, members, fans, and volunteers without the involvement of Jim Coates.

I have worked with Jim for years on merchandising, and also on the Board, so I know him pretty well. He is passionate, smart, and one of the most strategic thinkers I have ever met. It was largely Jim's influence that moved the Board of Directors to start looking beyond a 12-month window, and to start thinking more broadly, 5 and 10 years down the road.

As one example, when Jim arrived, we were consigning our merchandising to a third party. Although we were splitting our profits, this resulted in predictable income during the lean winter months. One of Jim's first recommendations was to take back full control of the merchandising operation, giving up that predictable income.

This single decision over time, resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars that has gone back into Crown's programs. That is only one example of dozens where Jim's strategic vision has resulted in great things for the organization.

I think Jim is the most deserving candidate in a very deserving group, and I lend him my full support for the 2017 Crown Hall of Fame.
Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Crews
Former Board Member
2016 Crown Hall of Fame

Matt Harloff

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Matt Harloff to be inducted into the Crown Hall of Fame in 2017. I have been associated with Crown since 2004 as a member (2004-2007), as well as a staff member (2008-present). In that time, Matt has been the single most impactful personality in shaping me as a human being.

In the years that I marched, Matt excelled as a motivator. No matter what our circumstance, he could inspire us to believe that we were capable of more than just another "good hornline". We wanted to work harder and more efficiently daily in order to meet his passion for excellence. Having the opportunity to teach with Matt has also helped me grow as an educator. He is never afraid to try a new strategy. It amazes me how he is constantly asking those of us on staff that have been taught by him what

we could be doing better or more efficiently. By empowering us as teachers, we all grow as a staff. This is also a reason why we all love spending so much time together.

A lot of people ask how Crown gets the “sound” and “clarity” that we do. So much of what was put in place back in 2003 have become building blocks for how we operate. Even when we were finishing 10th in brass, Matt had a way of making us feel special, but still demanding our standards. As we have become more experienced, Matt has done a fantastic job of focusing on the “simple things” and seeing where that leads us.

I highly recommend Matt for the Crown Hall of Fame. Since 2003, he has positively impacted many people personally and educationally. He is a great part of my experience at Crown.

Sincerely,

Chad Brinkman Brass Instructor Carolina Crown Drum & Bugle Corps
6518 Robbins Rd Portage, IN 46368

Dear Carolina Crown Hall of Fame Board,

I am writing to you in recommendation of Mr. Matt Harloff, who was nominated for membership into the Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps Hall of Fame. My association with Matt spans over 20 years through numerous music education avenues. Throughout this time, I have marveled at his passion, wisdom, and continued quest for knowledge in the name of creating success for his students.

Mr. Harloff’s record of teaching and methodology is a proven recipe for success. Having witnessed the work he does in our profession with his students at Avon High School, it is evident that he is more than a drum corps instructor. He is an educator in the truest sense of the word. Through my affiliation with Bands of America, it has been incredibly rewarding to see the growth and maturity of his high school program since he arrived on the faculty at Avon. A perennial Indiana state champion and a Bands of America Grand National champion, he is no stranger to the reward that hard work and goal attainment can produce. I know the true reward for him

is seeing the smiles and tears on the faces of his students. Matt teaches more than music...Matt teaches life. His students learn process, cause and effect, teamwork, and how to handle winning, as well as losing. These leadership attributes are the basis for his ethical being and simply an outgrowth of his true beliefs. In simple terms, we would refer to a person of his stature as a "role model." Indeed, someone that the youth of today are in need of as well as experiencing, to assure a positive example for their personal future.

Beyond his incredible DCI background, the numerous Jim Ott brass trophies, and a passion for teaching that burns every minute of every day, Matt Harloff's inclusion into the Carolina Crown Hall of Fame validates that teachers come second and students come first. Carolina Crown's reputation is synonymous with possessing the absolute best educators in the DCI activity. Matt's DCI mentors have given him the same opportunity that he now shares with our students. Paying it forward...one more life lesson that he illustrates with every student he has the privilege of teaching. In my teaching career, I know that teaching by example is the strongest method to student success. Matt embraces this concept and continues to live vicariously through his students. It is this connectivity that indeed makes him unique.

I give Matt Harloff my highest of recommendation to gain membership into the Carolina Crown Hall of Fame. He is synonymous with education, performance, and passion. Are there three better words that define Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps?

Sincerely,

David Starnes
Assistant Professor of Music
Director of Athletic Bands
Western Carolina University

Moe Smith

From: B Campau

I've only been associated with Crown five years but during my brief tenure, it has become increasingly obvious that the one GO-TO individual in the organization who has most (if not all) of the answers to any question with respect to administration is Moe Smith.

Moe is one of a handful of individuals who's been around since day one, back in the late 80's. She is truly the organizing pillar of Crown's back office, a critical function that without it functioning smoothly, the organization would experience extreme complications in many respects. It's not so much about handling phone inquiries or coordinating ticket & souvie purchases, but everything from paying bills to weekend camp coordination and the dozens of important details that must be properly addressed. It amazes me that Moe can handle a multiplicity of equally demanding tasks, yet handle each with optimal effectiveness and follow through.

And it's not simply about accomplishing tremendous workloads, but the manner in which she addresses issues and deals with people – with grace, class, & the utmost professionalism & expertise.

Without question, Moe is the backstage face of Crown, greatly contributing to the success of the organization both on and off the competition field.

2017 Hall of Fame
Letter of Support

Nominee: Moe Smith

This letter serves as a letter of support for Moe's nomination to the 2017 class of the Carolina Crown Hall of Fame.

In addition to the many years Moe has been employed by the organization, she has been a tireless volunteer, the backbone that has kept things on track for many years. While other may be the "face" of the organization,

Moe is no doubt considered by the thousands of young people who have been involved with Crown as the “mom” on the road and the friendly personality that made life on that road a bit easier.

Please accept this letter as a vote for Moe Smith; a well-deserving recipient.

Best,
Jim Williams
Crown Board Member

From: Gwen Tant
May 9

Dear Committee,

I would like to add my name to the long list of people who know that Carolina Crown has significantly benefited since Day 1 by having Moe Smith!

Moe has probably worn every hat possible on the support side of things (although I don't think she has driven a semi). From stuffing envelopes & sewing flags & uniforms, to becoming the pulse of the office responsibilities, Moe has given 110% steadily since 1988. Moe was a 'mom' to hundreds of corps kids while mothering her own small children on tour!

Moe's unwavering love and support for Carolina Crown since 1988 is unparalleled. She is a worthy recipient of being in the Hall of Fame Class of 2017!

Steve Tant

Please allow me to congratulate the committee on the excellent nominations for Carolina Crown's 2017 Hall of Fame class. Each and every one of the nominees has made significant contributions to the organization's success over its 30 year history.

For the purposes of this note, I'd like to highlight just a few of the contributions of Mr. Steve Tant to Carolina Crown over the years:

> Steve Tant has been directly involved in the support of Carolina Crown since the corps' inception in 1990. He has and continues to serve faithfully, as a long-term member of the board of directors, member of the NightBEAT/Crown Events Committee and many other voluntary capacities over the past 28 years.

> Over those years, Steve has spent considerable time, money and effort in providing signage and graphics products and services that promoted shows, events and the corps itself. He has been a key driver behind Crown's branding efforts including graphics on vehicles, promotional product in our merchandise operations and on-field props and equipment (i.e. Crown Stagecoach Co lettering, drum wraps, etc).

> For all of those years, Steve has served on the Crown Events Committee in a lead role for our premier event, NightBEAT which required a year-round effort in order to achieve the levels of success and support necessary for facilitating the exponential growth and success of Carolina Crown during that period. In this capacity, Steve often proved to be the creative driver behind so much of what makes NightBEAT special including, appearances by the US Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, flyovers, pre-show activities and community partnerships.

> Steve has also been a significant relationship builder for the organization as well. A number of long-term Crown volunteers, contributors and supporters were a direct result of Steve's recruiting efforts. Many of those individuals recruited by Steve remain loyal Crown contributors to this day. Additionally, Steve and his family have also been involved through numerous volunteer activities in addition to housing out of town/country members in their home.

> As stated previously, this year's slate of HOF nominees is fantastic with many well-deserving contributors. Although Steve has often worked in the background in supporting roles, the value of his contributions might not be as obvious as others but are highly significant nonetheless.

> In the final analysis, no one is more dedicated to Crown's mission of Developing Lifelong Excellence than Steve Tant. His love for the organization and more particularly the young women and men who participate in our programs is certainly worthy of your strongest consideration for membership into our most elite club, the Carolina Crown Hall of Fame.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Rosemond
Proud Crown Volunteer - 1990-life

2017 Hall of Fame
Letter of Support

Nominee: Steve Tant

This letter serves as a letter of support for Steve's nomination to the 2017 class of the Carolina Crown Hall of Fame.

As a Board member working along-side Steve for many years, I have found him to be a passionate supporter of the organization, and a reliable volunteer, being the talent behind much of what the public associates with Crown. Between truck wraps, the annual "year mirror" which adorns the uniform and other work including the stagecoach graphics in Relentless, Steve's fingerprints can be found on much of the successful endeavors over the years. I am grateful personally for Steve's enthusiasm for our latest endeavor, CrownCARES. Steve has contributed to this cause in many ways, including financially; he has demonstrated a willingness to do anything necessary to see kids and young people served.

Please accept this letter as a vote for Steve Tant; a well-deserving recipient.

Best,
Jim Williams
Crown Board Member

2017 Hall of Fame
Letter of Support
Nominee: Steve Tant

I would like to extend my support for Steve Tant to be inducted to the 2017 Carolina Crown Hall of Fame.

Steve has been involved for many years, attending early meetings of CDCA. Later, he was involved in virtually every aspect of NightBEAT as well as other shows. But Steve, to me, is so much more than just “sign guy”. Steve is the quiet guy in the corner, with ideas, and a ready willingness to help. The term “what’s next” is a phrase Steve often uses that is a testament to his tireless energy and willingness to be involved.

Steve’s ability to apply his professional skills as a graphic designer and sign installer to our shows, golf tournaments, and vehicles, adds professionalism to whatever event we are involved in. Perhaps most importantly, he facilitates the means for sponsor recognition at our events, which has tangible value. Steve’s wraps, banners, and signs have played a vital role in securing sponsors and sponsor dollars for the organization.

Steve’s support and guidance of Crown Tickets has helped to make something out of nothing, and has created an important source of revenue to support our programs.

I would like to lend my support to Steve Tant for the 2017 Crown Hall of Fame.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Crews
Former Board Member
2016 Crown Hall of Fame

This letter is in support of Steve Tant for the Crown Hall of Fame Class 2017.

I have been working in and around Crown for a good part of twenty years. I have worked 20 hour days at NightBEAT, alongside of Steve Tant. As a member of the Board of Directors I worked with Steve Tant helping plot the direction of all things Crown for many years. Whether we were hanging signs in 100 degree heat in South Carolina for FirstBEAT, then loading up a van and traveling to Virginia to produce CrownBEAT, and then do it all again the next day. We got it done and Steve Tant was in the middle of IT! Every major decision that was made by the Board, involved Steve Tant. In fact, of the small group of people who did most of everything for Crown over the years Steve Tant was center stage and had his hands in it all. Crown Is Crown because of Steve Tant and this core group of people. His hard work, tireless dedication to our students as well as his passion for the activity were, a driving force it what is Carolina Crown!

Please accept my recommendation for Steve Tant to take is well earned place alongside these other key players as a member of The Crown Hall of Fame!

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Martin
