

Charles "Charlie" D. Campbell

By Dan Basore

(As published in the autumn issue of the 2015 NFLCC Gazette)

Warren Platt nominated Charlie Campbell of Forsyth Missouri. Warren wanted to honor this fishing giant when the National was in their home state. This was a wise move as Charlie and his wife enjoyed visiting the many exhibits and collectors sharing memories, details of lures, photo opportunities and autographs.

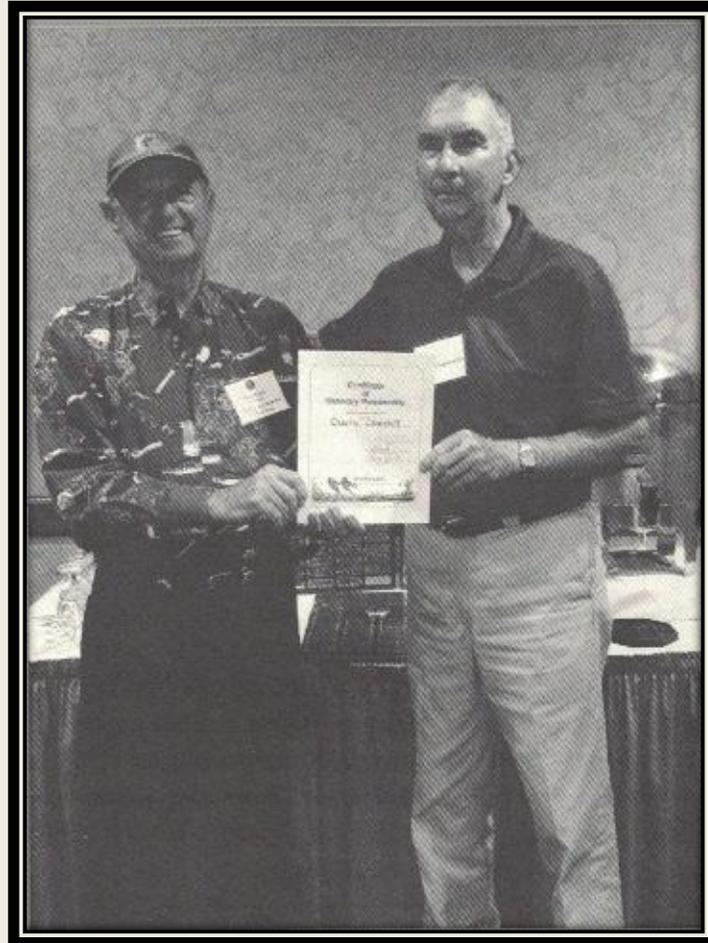
Just Google his name for numerous pages of his contributions to fishing. Charles Dean Campbell was born March 5th, 1933. He was active in basketball, baseball, track, tennis and President of Future Farmers of America in high school.

A 1953 graduate of Southwest Baptist Junior College, he was All Conference Basketball, voted Outstanding standing Athlete, served in the armed services including one year in Korea, on the all service All-Star Basketball team then continued at Drury College lettering in three sports and again was Outstanding Athlete.

He continued his education with a BA and Principal's Certificate from Drury. He taught and coached High School winning State Championship, State Sportsman Award, the Eddie Mathews "Coach of the Year" and many more accolades.

Upon leaving teaching he went into the marine business in Branson, Missouri and became the top Hydra Sports and Strahm Boat dealer and

one of the top with Johnson Outboards. In 1977 he became associated with John L. Morris Bass Pro Shops Inc. in Springfield, Missouri helping design Bass Tracker Boats, field testing products, making appearances at stores, sports shows, fishing the National Pro Tournaments winning Bass Pro and Bass Tracker Employee of the Year twice and its 1990 Presidential Award. His Civic and Conservation awards are also numerous.



Dan Basore (left) presents the NFLCC Honorary Member Aware to Charlie Campbell at the 2015 National.

FISHING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Charlie started guiding on Bull Shoals Lake in 1958 and in tournaments starting in 1960. He made and sold the "Charlie Campbell CC Spinner Bait" and helped correct and bring back Heddon's Zara Spook. Campbell qualified for five Bassmaster Classics, won the B.A.S.S. National Federation Tournament in 1974 and the Mid-American that same year. He won 1st in

the 1975 Missouri State Tournament and 2nd in the Chattanooga Super B.A.S.S. Tournament in 1986.

Overall he won 67 tournaments, with 27-2nd place and 13-3rd place finishes. He's in the Springfield and National Bass Halls of Fame and in 2013 received the Southwest Baptist University Life Achievement Award.

Upon his introduction at our business meeting, I remarked that it's an honor for our club to have this great fishing giant as a member. All there erupted into a standing ovation after which Charlie was too choked up to talk.

Later it was the consensus that if anyone cried the whole room would have broken up. But Warren Platt stepped up with a pat on Charlie's back and words of support after which Campbell contributed stirring thanks and support for our efforts to preserve and share fishing history and tackle.

He also stayed well after the program to visit, take photos and give autographs. Many of us are still talking about that magic moment when we were able to see how our Honorary Member program means so much to those who made the items we cherish.

Honorary Member - 2015