

HALL OF FAME



**Rueben "Ookie"
Hammond**

Rueben "Ookie" Hammond

**MINOT PARK DISTRICT
1998**

Rueben "Ookie" Hammond of Minot was the sixth individual inducted into the NDRPA Hall of Fame. He served as the recreation director for the City of Minot from 1948-1977.

Hammond is considered one of the pioneers of NDRPA, serving as its president in 1955 and on numerous committees throughout his career. He graduated with a bachelor's degree from Minot State Teacher's College in 1941.

Hammond noted finances during his time as recreation director were much different than for departments today, and projects were often completed without tax dollars. After Minot flooded in 1969 and a park bond issue failed, Hammond raised funds needed to build the swimming pool, softball complex, and a park that bears his name.

He served as president of the North Dakota Officials Association, Minot State University Beaver Boosters, and Minot Elks Quarterbacks Club. He is a member of the Halls of Fame of the North Dakota Officials Association, North Dakota Softball Association, Minot State University Athletics, and Minot Baseball.

Hammond was honored with many awards, including the Minot Eagles Community Service Award and the Minot Chamber of Commerce Genie award. The Minot Recreation Commission also named the International Fastpitch Softball Tournament the Ookie Hammond Softball Tournament in his honor.

He passed away in 2010.

*All NDRPA Hall of Fame members are recognized with plaques
at the North Dakota Sports Hall of Fame in the Jamestown Civic Center.*

Advancing parks and recreation for an enhanced quality of life in North Dakota.

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