

Rev. Irving D. Fryar, Sr.

Biography

Say the name Irving Fryar and it immediately conjures up memories of a former Rancocas Valley Regional High School graduate whose outstanding athletic talent catapulted him to a 17-year career in the NFL, three of those years with our own Philadelphia Eagles.

To say that Irving Fryar excelled on the gridiron would be to understate his football prowess. After all, he racked up three MVP awards with the New England Patriots; he was a two-time MVP winner with the Miami Dolphins, and also a two-time MVP recipient with the Philadelphia Eagles.

When Irving Fryar was on the field, he had impact, and he made a difference. The best news of all is that today he is still making an impact, in the community-at-large, and from the pulpit, where he is better known as the Reverend Irving D. Fryar, Sr.

These days Rev. Fryar concentrates on inspiring young people, strengthening families, and reaching out to those in need. For starters, he has been a brother in Omega Psi Phi since his college days. This community service-based fraternity feeds the needy at Thanksgiving, sponsors health fairs, organizes holiday toy drives, and underscores MLK Day as a day to give back to the community.

Through the South Jersey Youth Alliance as well as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Rev Fryar reaches out and speaks to young people on the importance of academics, life skills, and athletics.

Rev. Fryar is the Pastor and Founder of the New Jerusalem House of God in Mount Holly, which opened its doors in June of 2003. Under his leadership, the church has quickly become recognized as a place of refuge, spiritual guidance, healing and peace. Working in conjunction with the Extended Hand Ministries, Rev. Fryar and the New Jerusalem House of Good have worked to feed and clothe the homeless.

He also has affiliated himself with the Family Success Center in Mount Holly, whose mission is to help families find their way back into homes and jobs.

Against this backdrop of good will and good deeds, Rev. Fryar stands out as this year's recipient of the Lloyd Ritter Community Service award. The Volunteer Center of Burlington County is pleased to make him the 11th recipient of this illustrious award.

So the record is clear, Rev. Fryar was evolving as an all-around citizen long before his football career came to a close. In addition to his MVP's, he was voted "True Value Man of the Year" from 1994 through 1997, and was presented with the prestigious "Bart Starr Award" as the NFL player who best exemplified outstanding character and leadership in the community.

In addition to winning an Emmy Award for his weekly feature "My Slant on Sunday" on Philadelphia's ABC affiliate, Fryar also had a featured role in the Oliver Stone movie "On Any Given Sunday." He is the author of the book "Sunday is My Day," which is a biographical sketch of his life from childhood until the time he accepted his call into the ministry.

Today, Rev. Fryar is a member of the Board of Directors and official spokesperson for S.C.A.N., Stop Child Abuse Now, which is the largest non-profit organization in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He also is on the Board of Directors for Christian Quarterly, a non-profit Christian organization that networks Christian business owners and their businesses. He is the spokesperson and part-owner of Kingdom Network Corporation, a for-profit, on-line Christian directory.

In accepting the Volunteer Center's honor, Rev. Fryar, joins a distinguished list of past honorees, including Dr. Robert Messina, President of Burlington County College; Mary Wells, Director of Family Services of Burlington County; Millie Gama, former Executive Director of the Burlington County Chamber of Commerce; Burlington County Freeholder Vincent R. Farias; former Burlington County Superintendent of Schools Walter Keiss; Dick and Doris Alaimo of Mount Holly; Robert Santare, President of Champion Fasteners; former Burlington County Clerk Edward A. Kelly, Jr.; Joseph Laufter, former Associate Dean at Burlington County College and current County Historian, and Burlington County Consumer Affairs Director Renee Borstad.

The husband of Jacqueline and the father of Londen, Irving Jr., Adrienne, and Taylor, Rev. Fryar stands out as the case of a local athlete who made it big on the national scene, but has stayed true to his native Mount Holly, where he was born, raised and educated, and where he continues to work and live.