

2025

## Hall of Fame Profile

### Philip “Phil” Longmuir

### Oakdale

*Nominated by David Statham*

Phil Longmuir has been (and currently is) a slow-pitch umpire for an amazing 55 years. Phil has been an umpire member of MSF since its inception in 1982.

Phil started his softball career in 1961 playing fastpitch softball in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Phil played fast pitch for several years and played in many state and regional tournaments. Phil played several years in Fargo North Dakotas annual one-day fastpitch tournament. At the time, this tournament was recognized as the largest one-day fast pitch tournament in the nation.

At a regional fastpitch tournament in Grand Forks North Dakota, Phil was impressed by the umpiring skills of an umpire named Les Novak (well known as a Minnesota softball umpires' icon). Phil thought to himself, that if he ever got into umpiring, he wanted to be as good as Les Novak.

In 1968 Phil moved to St Paul, MN and played in the 3M fastpitch league for 12 years. In 1970, Phil volunteered to umpire for the youth baseball program in Cottage Grove. Many of the players, coaches (fathers) recognized Phils' umpiring skills and game knowledge. They approached Phil and asked him if he would be interested in umpiring men's slow-pitch softball in Cottage Grove. Phil, as always, put his best foot forward and gave it a try, that was 55 years ago! And Phil is still umpiring today.

In these past 55 years, Phil has umpired in many different leagues, district, and state tournaments. Phil has umpired leagues in Cottage Grove, Hastings, Inver Grove Heights, South St Paul, North St Paul, Woodbury, Maplewood, and 3M (the former Tartan Park)

Phil is and always has been the consummate professional, putting the players and fans before himself. Phil always arrives early and stays late, opening lavatory facilities and getting the lights turned on and off. All this is necessary in today's game to assist in keeping the leagues going.

Phil spent 36 years working at 3M Corporation in Maplewood before retiring in 2004. Phil then spent an additional 12 years working at the 3M employee activity complex known as the former Tartan Park. He worked on the 27-hole championship golf complex and maintained the athletic fields that the former 3M employees played on. In its hay day, the 3M league played intermural softball 5 nights a week on 4 full fields.

You can still catch Phil on a field every Thursday evening at Goodrich ball fields in Maplewood, MN umpiring the 3M intramural league.

Lastly, its Phils reputation among his customers, the players, coaches, and fans that really got him to this point. The players, coaches and fans love Phil. Phil has developed countless lifelong friendships from his time on the ball fields.

Phil Longmuir is a worthy addition to the Minnesota Softball Hall of Fame.

Phil and his wife Carol of 21 years reside in Oakdale, MN