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## PRESS RELEASE

### LUER NAMED THE 2024 CO-RECIPIENT OF THE SOUTHEAST LEFTY GOMEZ REGIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARD

The late Vernon “Lefty” Gomez was one of Babe Ruth League’s most dedicated volunteers. One of the reasons he was so committed to the program was because he witnessed firsthand the positive impact Babe Ruth League had on its young participants.

The “Lefty Gomez Volunteer of the Year” Regional Award Winner Program was introduced in 2023. The eight Babe Ruth League Regional Commissioners select one volunteer from their region, who has gone above and beyond to promote and further develop the Babe Ruth League program, to receive this prestigious award.

Carl Luer of Sarasota, Florida, was selected by Southeast Regional Commissioner John Lucas as the 2024 co-recipient.

Lucas said, “The Lefty Gomez Volunteer of the Year Award is among the highest honors to be bestowed upon a regional volunteer. Its recipient must embody the spirit of the Babe Ruth League philosophy, which is to provide the best possible sports experience for every child wanting to play. Carl Luer admirably and enthusiastically exemplifies this philosophy.”

Luer’s active involvement with the Sarasota Babe Ruth League began in 1999, serving on the league’s Board of Directors, a volunteer position he still holds today. From 1999 to 2011, Luer coached several teams within the Sarasota Babe Ruth League. In addition, he has been serving as League Secretary from 2002 to the present.



Before joining Babe Ruth League, Luer was involved with the Sarasota Little League, as a player from 1958 to 1961, as an umpire from 1967 to 1970, as a coach from 1967 to 1970, and as a Board Member from 1985 to 1999.

Luer is very active in local Science Fairs, having been part of a committee to initiate the Sarasota County Science Fair Program in the early 1980s, and remains an active member. In 1994, the Science Fair Committee created the Dr. Carl Luer Biological Sciences Award, presented annually to the outstanding biological sciences project at the Sarasota County Regional Science Fair. Also, Luer serves as Chair of the Scientific Review Committee (SRC) for the Sarasota County School Board.

Luer received his bachelor's degree from Duke University in 1970, his master's degree in Zoology from the University of South Florida in 1974, and his PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Kansas Medical Center in 1978. In 1979, he created a Marine Biomedical Research Program at Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota.

Luer has published more than 50 peer-reviewed scientific articles, authored or co-authored eight book chapters, and co-edited one book.

Besides receiving the 2024 Babe Ruth "Lefty Gomez Volunteer of the Year" Regional Award, Luer was inducted into the Sarasota High School Hall of Fame in 2023, recognizing his commitment to youth baseball in Sarasota, his active participation in the Sarasota Regional Science Fair Program, and his career in marine biomedical research at Sarasota's Mote Marine Laboratory. In 2001, Luer received the Professional Achievement Award from the USF Distinguished Alumni Program, served on the Advisory Board of the Pritzker Marine Biology Research Center, and was recognized in 2014 as the 11<sup>th</sup> Distinguished Fellow of the American Elasmobranch Society.

Babe Ruth League, Inc. is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to developing better citizens by providing properly supervised baseball and softball competition for 4 through 18-year-old players. It is the basic intent of Babe Ruth League that every player who has a desire to play the sport is allowed to participate and have fun.

**For Immediate Release to All Media**