



## 2011 Inductee

### WILLIAM ROBERT 'BOB' KOONTZ

To this day, only one Atlantic Coast Conference team has ever won an NCAA baseball championship, and that was Wake Forest back in 1955.

And Lexington's Bob Koontz was the back-up catcher for that team, which went on to finish the year with a 29-7 record.

The Deacons came out of the losers' bracket to defeat Western Michigan 7-6 for the national title.

That was sweet revenge for the Deacons, who lost to Western Michigan 10-7 in an earlier round of the double elimination tournament.

Actually, Koontz was a talented well-rounded athlete who played football as an end for the Demon Deacons for three seasons and then played baseball in his junior and senior years. He attended Wake Forest on a football scholarship and graduated in 1955.

He was a pulling guard for Lexington's football team.



After graduating from Wake Forest Koontz joined the Navy and became a naval aviator. He later turned that training into a career as a commercial pilot for Piedmont Airlines, for whom he famously dressed as Santa Claus in the cockpit each Christmas season.