



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### HAMPTON ROADS' DICK ABEL ELECTED TO FCA'S HALL OF CHAMPIONS *Former FCA National President Joins Three Other 2013 Inductees*

**(KANSAS CITY, MO)** – Former FCA president and United States Air Force Brigadier General “ret” Richard “Dick” Abel of Hampton Roads has been named to the Fellowship of Christian Athlete’s Hall of Champions, Les Steckel, FCA’s president and CEO, announced today.

Abel served as FCA’s national president form 1988-92, developing the C.H.A.D. principle, based on camps, huddles, adult chapters and development, a precursor to today’s Four Cs (Campus, Camps, Community and Coaches) of ministry employed by FCA. He advocated an increase in leadership and coaches Camps, and developed the inner city outreach and ministry to women athletes. Under Abel’s leadership, computerization of camp registration and FCA merchandise was initiated.

Abel’s connection to the Fellowship of Christian Athlete’s dates back to his days as an assistant football coach at the United States Air Force Academy in the 1960’s, when he accepted Christ at an FCA retreat. He would go on to serve as one of the adult Huddle leaders at the Academy for the next three years, before assignments in Vietnam, where he earned the Bronze star, and Hawaii.

Dick initiated FCA Huddles in Hawaii, while his wife, Ann started the first Huddle for girls at a local high school. In 1978, the former coach was assigned to the Pentagon, where he established FCA at nearby Annandale High School, and soon joined FCA’s Virginia state board and later the National Board.

Abel retired from the United States Air Force in 1985. During his 30 year career he served as a jet pilot, led the Warhawk acrobatic team and served three 4 star admirals and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He also made five flights to escort returning POWs from Vietnam. His career concluded with his assignment as Director of Public Affairs, United States Air Force.

Following his retirement from the US Air Force, he joined the senior staff of the US Olympic Committee. He was named FCA's president three years later.

Following his tenure with FCA, Abel was selected as Executive Director of the Ministry with Campus Crusade for Christ (now CRU).

After leaving the Military Ministry Abel has established a corporate LLC, "Leadership is All About People," directed toward government, corporate, military and athletic leaders. He is the author of two books *The DNA of Leadership* and *Vector Corrector*.

Abel joins San Diego area wrestling coach Jose Campo, former Texas A & M and Sam Houston State baseball coach Mark Johnson and FCA Lacrosse and FCA Maryland board of directors chair Frank Kelly III as the newest inductees into the Hall of Champions.

"This is a tremendous class entering the Hall of Champions," Steckel said. "These four men have spent decades making a tremendous impact on the world for Jesus Christ through the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. They epitomize FCA's core values of integrity, serving, teamwork and excellence."

With the addition of Abel, Campo, Johnson and Kelly, the Hall of Champions now includes 82 members. The honorees are determined by an FCA selection committee following a nomination process that includes staff, volunteers, athletes and members of the organization's Board of Trustees. The [full list of Hall of Champions members](#) is available at FCA.org.

Each inductee will be honored with a plaque bearing a sculpture of their likeness that will remain in the Hall of Champions in FCA's National Support Center in Kansas City. A replica will be presented to the honoree at an appropriate special event sometime this year.

The Hall of Champions was established in 1991 to honor individuals who have demonstrated a consistent commitment to Jesus Christ through the ministry of FCA. They are considered volunteer "All Stars" who have given above and beyond the call of duty and have upheld for Four Core Values of FCA – Integrity, Service, Teamwork and Excellence.

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## **ABOUT FCA**

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the heart and soul in sports, is touching millions of lives... one heart at a time. Since 1954, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes has been challenging coaches and athletes on the professional, college, high school, junior high and youth levels to use the powerful medium of athletics to impact the world for Jesus Christ. FCA focuses on serving local communities by equipping, empowering, and encouraging people to make a difference for Christ.