

## *In Loving Memory*



*Photo courtesy of Richard Briede*

Esteemed New Orleans Track Club (NOTC) member Albert ("Al") E. Briede III passed away on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. Al was 94 years old and spent over half of his life as a pioneer and passionate supporter of the New Orleans Track Club. He started running when he was 36 years old and was one of its founding charter members in 1963. Al also served on the NOTC Board of Directors as President in 1973. Throughout his lifetime he had many athletic feats and accomplishments including: pitcher for the New Orleans Pelicans baseball team, New Orleans Diamond Club Hall of Famer,

participant in 50 consecutive New Orleans Athletic Club (NOAC) Turkey Day races on Thanksgiving Day (with a feature in Runner's World in 1986 for his 22-year streak for attendance at the Turkey Day race), past member and multiple athlete of the year honoree of NOAC, and charter and lifetime subscriber of Sports Illustrated magazine. In 2013, Al Briede was recognized for his contributions to NOTC and was inducted as a member of the NOTC Hall of Fame's inaugural class at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Race. Most NOTC members are familiar with Al's namesake race: the Al Briede Gold Cup Race. This race was founded by Al and it remains one of the oldest 3-mile races in the country and the third oldest race in New Orleans. This year, NOTC will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Al Briede Gold Cup Race at Audubon Park on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Mr. Briede's legacy will continue to leave an imprint on runners and walkers in New Orleans. As a runner and volunteer of NOTC, I often think of Mr. Briede's signature quote, printed on the back of a sweatshirt I received at my first Al Briede Gold Cup Race in 2010: "I'm doing the best with what I have left." NOTC is truly honored and blessed with the gifts that Mr. Briede has left our club and running community. His dedication, discipline, and love of the sport remind us all to do our best every day.



*Photo provided by Allison Briede*

*-Lauren Jewett, NOTC President*