



2005 HOF Induction Speech

Amanda M. O'Leary - Inductee

I am both proud and grateful to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, and especially honored that it is bestowed upon me by US Lacrosse. I would also like to congratulate the other recipients of this honor and it is humbling to be a part of this esteemed group of inductees.

In a society where young people are searching for role models, I never had to look any further than my own home. My parents Lonny and Joyce Moore provided love, support and made many sacrifices and for that I will always be thankful. We had 2 rules in our home – 1. you were never allowed to quit once you started something – 2. you always had to try your best but not necessarily be the best. Mom, I thank you for your willingness to grab a field hockey stick and play with me and for standing behind the lacrosse goal retrieving errant shots from the woods and the poison ivy which was soon to follow. Dad, despite coaching football, wrestling and track and field, you always found time after a long day to have a catch in the driveway or your willingness to spend the entire day playing with me. It is these memories which I recall so fondly. I am grateful to my parents for being everything a daughter could ask for. Thank you and I love you.

I would like to thank my National Team coaches, Sue Stahl and Heather Dow. The word blessed comes to my mind when I think of the opportunities they provided me. Sue instills a passion for lacrosse in everyone who plays for her. I wanted to win for her as much as I did for myself. So to Sue and Heather, I am eternally grateful for their inspiration, leadership and dedication.

I would not be standing in front of you this evening if it were not for my amazing teammates. I was lucky to have played with people who put our team's success above any individual achievements. At Temple, I played with some of the greatest to have ever played the game – Kim Ciaricco, Gail Danson and Kathleen Geiger.

My National Team teammates, Jessica Wilk, Jen Uhlela, Carin Peterson, Sue Heether, Maggie Vaughn, Erin Brown Millon, Mary Ann Meltzer and the many others who I spent countless hours with over the years – I thank you for your unconditional friendship.

A special thank you to Laura Field and Clarissa Clarke, who work with me at Yale – your endless support and loyalty is greatly appreciated.

My daughter Madison introduced me to the letters BFF and their meaning – Best Friends Forever and this is what I consider my teammates and assistants.

Finally, to my husband Kevin, daughter Madison and son Ryan, I thank you for your constant encouragement and love. There are so many sacrifices you have made over the years – a simple thank you could never suffice. I have however forgiven Kevin for sleeping through my World Cup game against Japan – jet lag will get you every time. Thank you again.