



**2019  
INDUCTEE**



# JOHN "BIG DADDY" BISHOP

**Restaurateur, Media, Pitmaster**

John "Big Daddy" Bishop was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on October 15th, 1921. He spent much of his professional life working as a brick mason, but over time felt compelled to open his own neighborhood business. He initially settled on the idea of starting a mortuary, but all that changed with a dream. It was in that dream that God told Mr. Bishop to open a restaurant on the land in front of his home and to call it Dreamland. Mr. Bishop obliged and in 1958, he and his wife - Miss Lillie - opened Dreamland in the Tuscaloosa neighborhood of Jerusalem Heights. Miss Lillie - a fantastic cook - initially served everything from fried fish to cheeseburgers. However, it was their hickory-smoked ribs that quickly went from a local favorite to a national sensation. To keep up with demand, the Bishops soon whittled down their menu and began serving only ribs, white bread, and potato chips. The rest, as they say, is history.

Since Mr. Bishop's passing in 1997, Dreamland has expanded to ten locations, is often ranked as one of the country's top BBQ spots and is on the bucket lists of BBQ enthusiasts the world over. Despite its growth, Dreamland still stays close to its roots, using the same techniques and recipes John Bishop and Miss Lillie perfected six decades ago. His photo still hangs in every restaurant, employees still proudly share his story, and the community he began serving back in 1958 still reveres his name.