

# INTRODUCING THE

**1978**

Recipient of

**THE JOSEPH G. ROGERS AWARD**

**C. EUGENE KELTNER**



For nearly thirty years Gene has given dedicated volunteer service and outstanding leadership to the YMCA. For twenty-one of those years he guided and directed the lives of young people at the Decatur, Illinois YMCA as their swimming and diving coach, swimming instructor, counselor, and friend. While he served his local association, he also served the Illinois Area Physical Education Program, serving as its chairman from 1960 to 1962. He received the Layman of the Year Award in Illinois in 1958 which is the highest award attainable in the Illinois Physical Education Movement.

Gene has served the YMCA Competitive Aquatic Program since 1968, serving on the National YMCA Aquatic Committee and the Operating Council on Competitive Swimming and Diving. Currently, he is serving as Chairman of the Swim Council.

His other accomplishments include:

- Chairman, Men's Swimming and Diving Committee, National YMCA
- Chairman, Olympic Swimming Development Committee
- Member, Olympic Swimming Committee (1968 to present)
- Member, Board of Directors, International Swimming Hall of Fame
- Member, College Swimming Coaches Association Forum Committee
- Recipient, Service to Aquatics Award, National YMCA 1974

Gene has taught, officiated, and administered swimming programs both in and around the YMCA. He has officiated NCAA and AAU National Meets, was a key official in the 1972 and 1976 Olympic Trials, and has helped run the College Coaches Swim Forum in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, annually. All of this serves to preserve the place of the YMCA in the swimming world.

It has been said, "The greatest gift a man can give to his fellow man is the gift of a constructive, dedicated, and creative life." That is exactly what Gene Keltner has given to the YMCA Competitive Aquatic Program. Gene is a sincere, dedicated, and devoted YMCA layman.

Thanks, Gene, for these, your gracious gifts.