

2000 Joseph G. Rogers Award

For dedication, accomplishment, and excellence in YMCA Competitive Swimming & Diving

Millard D. Freeman Jr.

Millard Freeman's YMCA involvement was extensive and diversified, starting as a youth 6-years of age with invitational-learn-to-swim-classes, then progressive swimming instruction, junior/senior lifesaving, junior leaders corps, boys bible class, HI-Y, lifeguard, swim instructor, bowling alley manager, followed by professional staff positions at several YMCAs and finally National staff in 1985.

Millard's competitive swimming started at the YMCA in West Chester, PA, where he won the best boy swimmer in West Chester under 15 years of age, in 1945. The YMCA did not have an age group swim team, as both the high school and college used the pool extensively. Millard swam four years varsity for the high school and served as captain in his senior year followed by four years varsity for West Chester State Teachers College and again was elected captain in his senior year.



Millard became the first physical director at the North Penn YMCA in Lansdale, PA and was able to develop an aquatic program that necessitated construction of a second indoor pool. This presented him with the opportunity to design a pool for competition swimming and to implement a swim team program. This program produced two Conrad "Connie" Carrol Award winners. He is particularly proud of working to develop a total competitive swimming program from pool construction to age group swimming and parent involvement which, thirty years later, is still active and strong.

As aquatic coordinator for the Middle Atlantic Region, Millard was part of the MAR team, which sponsored and directed the 1978 YMCA National Swimming and Diving Championships. This was the first and only time a region hosted a national swimming and diving championship.

Millard, following retirement in 1991, served as a member of the YMCA of the USA Competitive Swimming and Diving Committee. He has chaired the safety, site selection and nominating committees. He was also chairman of several special project committees i.e. "Guidelines for Safe Competition Relay Swimming Starts"; standardization of rules, regulations and guidelines on national entry forms and meet information with the "Rules that Govern"; review of the document "Guidelines Concerning National YMCA Age Group Competitive Swimming and Diving Program"; and development of a site selection bid form.

Millard was a member of the committee that developed the first edition of "Principles of YMCA Competitive Swimming and Diving" published by the YMCA of the USA in 1996. He facilitated the preliminary development of an operations manual for YMCA National Swimming and Diving Championships. He has served as a delegate to the USS House of Delegates USAS Convention.

Beyond competitive swimming, Millard was involved with scuba for 35 years-a certified diver in 1960, YMCA scuba instructor in 1962, PADI scuba instructor in 1969, first MAR YMCA Scuba Field Coordinator in 1970, YMCA National Scuba Director (1985-86) and served as a member of the YMCA National Scuba Committee (1991-95).

Millard's YMCA aquatic involvement included certified National Aquatic Director in 1958, YMCA Aquatic Field Agent, MAR Aquatic Field Coordinator (1976-83) and YMCA National Aquatic Director (1986-91).

Millard was also involved with organizations other than the YMCA including the American Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, Council for National Cooperation in Aquatics, American Heart Association and the Pennsylvania Swimming Hall of Fame Selection Committee. He was heavily involved with the American Red Cross, holding instructor certifications in First Aid, CPR, Adapted Aquatics and Water Safety. He served as an instructor-trainer for 40 years (1954-94) on the training boards of: Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter, Philadelphia; Capital Chapter, Richmond, VA; and metropolitan Atlanta Chapter, GA. He also served on faculty at Red Cross national aquatic schools and as a member of several branch committees.

Millard has the unique distinction of being the only person honored with the YMCA of the USA key aquatic awards; Joseph Rogers-competitive swimming, Bernard Empleton-scuba, and the Distinguished Service to Aquatics Award. He is currently serving (since 1994) as coordinator for registration of officials, coaches and swimmers at the short and long course championships.

Millard and his wife live in Key West, FL. They have three sons, Millard III, Darb, John; one daughter Janet; and six grandchildren.

HONORS AND AWARDS

REGIONAL: Past President's Award PA State Physical Director's Society (1966-68)/ ARC Certificate of Commendation (1957-83)/ National PE Society Regional Award of Excellence (1978)/ MAR PE Society Clarence B. Douglas Aquatic Award of Excellence (1980)/ ARC Certificate of Appreciation of Volunteer Service: 8,875 hours (1981)/ ARC Exemplary Service Award (1982)/ Inducted into the PA State Swimming Hall of Fame (1992).

NATIONAL: National PE Society Directorate of PE Award (1981)/ YMCA National Distinguished Service to Aquatic Award (1983)/ Society of Fellows in YMCA PE (1983)/ YMCA PE Society Roberts-Gulick Memorial Award (1986)/ Fellow in the Bernard E. Empleton Society of YMCA National Scuba Program (1991)/YMCA Scuba Instructor Emeritus (1992).

This award was established in 1974 as recognition of long and exceptional leadership, insight, dedication and friendship by a man or woman whose career touched and enriched the lives of countless young people. In his lifetime, Joe Rogers was the first recipient of the National Distinguished Service to Aquatics Award, was the organizer of the National Operating Council on Aquatics, represented the YMCA on the U.S. Olympic Men's Swimming Committee, and was the founder of the National YMCA Women's Swimming & Diving Championships established in 1966.

The Joseph G. Rogers Award statue is permanently located in the International Swimming Hall of Fame Museum in Fort Lauderdale, Florida with each honoree's name affixed in bronze to the base. A replica of the statue is presented to each honoree at the YMCA of the USA National Swimming & Diving Championships. The creator of the statue is Daniel Gluck, whose abstract religious and sports sculptures are on view in many public places around the United States. The beautifully sculpted award of bronze and marble stands over four feet in height, weighs nearly 1,000 pounds and has a mounted swimming figure that stretches nearly four feet in length.