

INTRODUCING THE

1983

Recipient of

THE JOSEPH G. ROGERS AWARD

PAUL A. ATKINSON



Following graduation from college and a stint in the Military Service, Paul Atkinson began a career in the YMCA. Swimming has been both a vocation and an avocation. He was introduced to the YMCA and its competitive swimming and diving program in 1952 through the influence of his Physical Director. He participated in two YMCA National Swimming and Diving Championships as a competitor in 1952 and 1956. In 1959 he entered into the YMCA professional ranks as an Assistant Physical Director and has contributed to the competitive swimming and diving programs of the YMCA ever since. He has been in attendance at every YMCA National Championship Meet since 1960, serving as coach, host or official at each one. From coaching to teaching to officiating to administrative functions, Paul has done it all.

Some of his accomplishments are:

- Coordinated and conducted the Ohio-West Virginia Area Swimming and Diving Championships.
- Coordinated and conducted the Great Lakes Regional Swimming and Diving Championships.
- Hosted and conducted two National YMCA Swimming and Diving Championships.
- Served as Aquatic Commissioner for the Ohio-West Virginia Area and the Great Lakes Region.
- Honored in 1971 as "Maverick Man of the Year" (outstanding Physical Director in the Great Lakes Region) for his dedicated leadership in Aquatics and Competitive Swimming and Diving.
- Originated, planned and promoted Great Lakes Regional YMCA Swimming and Diving Clinics.
- Served as Council Member of the National YMCA Competitive Swimming and Diving Council since its inception.
- Presently serves as Vice Chairman of the National YMCA Competitive Swimming and Diving Council.
- Served as YMCA representative to the United States Olympic Diving Committee.

"The measure of success or stature of a person is the effect that person has on other people." Paul Atkinson as a man and as a YMCA Director has had a positive effect on all those who have come in contact with him. His dedication to the YMCA Competitive Aquatic Program has meant a great deal to competitors, parents and associates alike.

The greatest gift one can give to humanity is the gift of a constructive, dedicated and creative life. Many have given these gifts to the YMCA Aquatic and Competitive Programs. Paul is one of those many people. We are indeed proud to honor Paul A. Atkinson as the 1983 recipient of the Joseph G. Rogers Award.