



# The 1995 Joseph G. Rogers Award

for Dedication, Accomplishments  
and Excellence in  
YMCA Competitive Swimming and Diving  
is presented to

## ROBERT L. GOLAY



Robert Golay started with the YMCA when he was 16 as a lifeguard and swim instructor for the Downtown Los Angeles YMCA (about 1944). Within a year he was coaching the Y's age group swim team and soon traveling with groups of kids up and down the So. California coast. In 1946 he originated and directed the first Pacific Southwest Area YMCA (5 states) swimming & diving championships. It was held at the Los Angeles Olympic Swim Stadium. He also conducted a number of So. Calif. championship meets along with being a prominent leader in AAU swim circles.

Later, while with the Tucson, Arizona YMCA, he hosted the 1955 National YMCA Swimming & Diving Championships. He coached the Y team in Tucson, over 125 swimmers strong, and compiled an impressive record. His high school swimmers would beat the University of Arizona Varsity swim team, as well as take-on teams from UCLA, San Jose State, University of New Mexico and others. For 5 years, his team was undefeated as Arizona State Senior Champions. (He was named "Coach of the Year" in 1957 by the Arizona Daily Star for all sports - over University coaches and the Pro teams.)

Starting with the Y Nationals held at Yale University in 1954, Golay attended every Y National for 15 years and held a major responsibility -- which included host, Chairman of Championship Committee, Meet Referee and even a "stand-in" director for a host that got sick.

Other notable accomplishments include:

- \* Originated and edited the National YMCA Aquatic News (official publication of Nat'l Y Aquatic Committee. Paid subscription list included Y's, colleges, libraries, and some international. He also was Associate Editor, YMCA Journal of Physical Education for 5 years. (Aquatic Editor)
- \* Wrote & published an "Aquatic Officials Handbook" that was used as a training bible for training officials at YMCA district and national meets for a number of years
- \* Received the "Roberts-Gulick Memorial Award" and the "Distinguished Service to YMCA Aquatics Award" (from the National YMCA ) in 1970.

Bob recently retired from the YMCA after 42 years of service. He was Vice President of the L. A. YMCA and Executive Director of the Downey YMCA for his last 21 years. He lives in Downey, California with his wife, Mary. They have two grown daughters, Lori and Lani.



This award was established in 1974 as recognition of long and exceptional leadership, insight, dedication and friendship by a man whose YMCA career has 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 and Diving Championships established in 1966.

The Joseph G. Rogers Award statue is permanently located in the International Swimming Hall of Fame Museum, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, with each Honoree's name affixed in bronze on the base. A replica of the statue is presented to each Honoree at the YMCA of the USA National Swimming and Diving Championships.

The creator of the statue is Daniel Gluck, whose abstract religious and sports sculptures (including the Brian Piccolo Award) are on view in many public places around the United States. The beautifully sculptured 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.