

## AYR ROGER MARTIN PASSION AWARD

### NAISMITH TRIBUTE:

As a leader in health and wellness program development and education, and a member of the Springfield College staff team, James Naismith has been credited for the founding of what is now a worldwide health and wellness sports program we refer to as 'Basketball'. In acknowledgement of James Naismith's contributions to the YMCA in his endeavors to provide alternative programs to maintain healthy bodies, this recognition is directed to an individual who has given his creative life time service in outstanding guidance, direction and innovation in the field of health, wellness and sport development.

This Naismith Award recognizes an individual who served the majority of his active and post YMCA career in the program area of health, wellness and sports development via the designing and management of program, and creative vision in the implementation of community wellness. In the likeness of James Naismith, this nominee possesses the insight and strength to motivate others to reach for their highest potential in terms of wellness.

### INTRODUCTION OF ROGER MARTIN:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you our first Passion Award honorary – Roger Martin.

Roger attended Springfield College graduating with a B.S. Degree in Physical Education. His graduate studies took place at the Universities of Illinois and Wisconsin in the field of Exercise Physiology and Nutrition.

Roger has had an eventful career in the world of fitness, exercise and wellness. He began his career as a director of physical education for the Central YMCA in Oakland from 1954 – 62 where he was instrumental in developing aquatics, basketball, volleyball, softball, wrestling and scuba programs. He also started the diving program as well as fitness classes and clubs.

He moved to San Diego in 1963 serving as director of physical education and was later appointed Executive Director for the Downtown YMCA. Roger was also appointed Scuba Commissioner for the Pacific Region YMCA for 9 years.

He successfully developed, organized and ran Family Fitness Camps at both Camp Surf and Camp Marston which included a variety of speakers, nutritional education and a fun filled active agenda. Roger initiated many programs including 'Run for Your Life' in 1967 which involved 17 different groups around the county, the annual 'Balboa Park – Resolution Run' which is still a popular last business-day run of the year, and formed the Greater San Diego Jogging Council in 1968 to help organize runs

throughout the area. The next year he coordinated the Coronado Bridge Run in conjunction with the opening ceremonies for the bridge.

Once his career became focused on cardiovascular fitness and corporate health and wellness, he developed the YMCA Corporate Fitness Program in 1979 (Project Upbeat) launched and maintained popular fitness programs for Rohr Industries, General Dynamics, S. D. Trust & Savings Bank, Solar and other local firms successfully maintaining high participation. His active involvement and individual attention to each attendee contributed to their individual success.

In addition to the all of this, he implemented and conducted the 10 mile Mission Beach/Bay Run which became a popular and successful Downtown YMCA major fundraiser for 13 years. Roger was also the editor of 'Fitness Facts' – a YMCA Fitness Education Periodical and served on a writing team for a National YMCA Fitness Manual and served as Chair of the Adult Commission – Smoking Research for the San Diego federally funded ' Stop Smoking' program.

In 1990 he joined the Senior Olympics movement in San Diego as a member of the Advisory Committee and was elected Chairperson a few years later. He also served as the First Chairperson of the California State Senior Olympics Organization.

Roger was invited to serve for four years as an Advisor to the State of California Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. In addition, he started volleyball tournaments for the Senior Olympics throughout the state of California serving as its first local and state Commissioner. In addition to the administrative side of athletics and fitness, Roger participated in volleyball at local, state and national games, 5K/10K runs and the Steeplechase. A marathon runner – he has completed a total of 27 marathons including the Boston and the challenging Catalina marathons 10 times. To date, Roger can often be found playing volleyball at the Downtown YMCA.

And you thought he was done! Shortly after his retirement, Roger accepted the challenge of heading up the San Diego Senior Olympics serving as Executive Director for two and a half years and continues to serve on the local board of directors. Roger is a charter member of the Downtown YMCA Heritage Club and is responsible for recruiting several endowment members. He is also recognized as a major fundraiser in their Annual Campaign.

Roger has helped hundreds of individuals discover the joy of running and appreciation for maintaining fitness, serving as a role model. Throughout his career and into his retirement, Roger has developed numerous fitness programs and continues to motivate folks to maintain physical fitness. He publishes a 'health' article in the Marston Chapter quarterly newsletter the 'Grapevine'. Marston members benefit immensely from his knowledge. Roger always takes time to listen to fitness concerns and always finds or develops programs that will be helpful.

THE JOHN 17:21 AWARD STATEMENT:

In John 17:21 Jesus prays for his Disciples 'That they may all be one. Father! May they be in us just as you are in me and I am in you. May they be one, so that the world will believe you sent me'. It is this application of unselfish giving and oneness for all humanity that was instilled in the Disciples that is also found in Roger Martin who has given of himself for the betterment of our organization and for humanity.

We wish to recognize our 'intrepid' but perhaps 'unsung' hero in our family who has excelled in his career and in retirement and has made significant if not magnificent efforts in developing, supporting and communicating this passion for others.

In summary "To Be One With The Father". This was the inherent vision of James Naismith and the inherent vision of Roger Martin.

WELCOME ROGER MARTIN:

"TO SIT AROUND AND WAIT FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO DO WHAT GOD HAS CALLED ME TO DO MYSELF. OH, I COULD CHOOSE NOT TO MOVE BUT I REFUSE!!

Please help me acknowledge a most Intrepid and Unsung hero member of our family – ROGER MARTIN.

Roger Martin could not be with us today but Bea Halk, who nominated Roger will come forward to accept the John 17:21 Passion Award 2011 for Roger and will see that it is presented with grace and honor at an upcoming Marston Chapter meeting.