

The Board Talk

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Al Stewart is California's First Hall of Fame Inductee

Al Stewart, who has served The World of Shuffleboard through his A & M Amusement Service in El Monte since 1959, is the first inductee into the California Hall of Fame. Appropriately, because he is known by many as "Shuffleboard's Sweetheart," his induction took place at The Dixie Belle's (Downey, California) Valentine's Tournament on February 14. By his side for the moving induction ceremony was his "child bride" of 28 years, Von, who has had more than her share of health challenges during the past few years, and their two daughters.



Testimonies from admirers across the country were part of Al's induction:

"He is a living example of what we all should be like. We can look at him and say, 'This is how it is done.' His values, responsibilities and priorities are all in order. How many of us can say this about ourselves? If I could be reincarnated, I would come back with a father just like Al." Freddie & Lois Thuman, California

"Anyone who is familiar with Al Stewart's ad in The Board Talk may recall that it states, 'For Experience, Integrity and Care -- You can't beat Al Stewart.' This is no mere advertising slogan, it's who Al Stewart is." Phil Skover & John McDermott, The Shuffleboard Federation, Michigan

"Al's honesty, integrity, both personal and in business, and his generosity are an inspiration to all of

us. His induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame is a recognition that is certainly in order...in fact, it is absolutely necessary!" Louise Freer, Pennsylvania

"Al is the most devoted, hardest-working shuffleboard fan-player that I know. If there is work to be done or help needed concerning our game, Al is the one that people turn to and can count on." Darrol Nelson, Oregon

"Al Stewart -- four words: Honesty, Integrity, Dedication and Loyalty." Paul Weber, California Hall of Fame Committee member and master of ceremonies for the induction

These and many more tributes are part of a printed program that will be a lasting keepsake for the Stewarts.



Al Stewart accepts his California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame plaque from chairperson Jolene Lembke. Al became the state's first inductee. Bellflower Bruce Hale and Bobby Goldsmith will be Nos. 2 and 3.

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Stewart Inducted *(cont. from Page 1)*

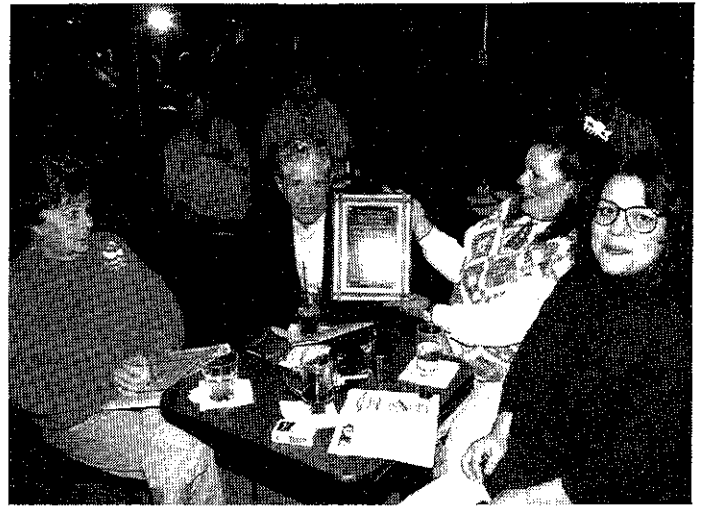
"The California Hall of Fame was formed in order to showcase worthy individuals and their achievements, and create a platform for us to honor them," said President Jolene Lembke. "The induction ceremony was professional in appearance, sentimental and interesting. I credit the hard work and devotion of our committee, the good luck of knowing Jimmy Martin who is a genius with his video camera, our creative consultant Marilyn McCracken who went above and beyond our expectations, guest speaker Balboa Ron Schweikert, and last, but not least, the subject we had to work with -- Mr. Al Stewart!"



The two "creative geniuses" who helped the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Committee make the Al Stewart induction a memorable affair were Marilyn McCracken and Jimmy Martin.



Balboa Ron Schweikert, author of the "Frisco Eddie" series, served as guest speaker, asking Al: "Remember when.....?"



Al's proud family -- "child bride" Von, daughters Tina and Jolene -- admire his plaque.



Seldom at a loss for words, inductee Al Stewart was overwhelmed by what he called "an unexpected and totally awesome honor."

What many did not know at the time, this was a fitting grand finale to the nearly 40-year career of Al's A & M Amusement Service. The "old man" who puts so many of us to shame will finally retire on April 1. His business has been sold to another well-known shuffler, Billy Maxwell. Watch for further details.

The active California Hall of Fame Committee will induct Bellflower Bruce Hale during an ABC Draw Tournament at Oskar's in Bellflower on April 17-19, and Bobby Goldsmith during the Memorial weekend tournament at Mr. G's in Visalia.

(Editor's Note: If you would like to send a congratulatory note to these inductees: Al & Von Stewart, 11415 Cherrylee Dr., El Monte, CA 91732; Bellflower Bruce Hale and/or Bobby Goldsmith, c/o California Hall of Fame Chair, Jolene Lembke, 11050 Bryant Rd., Sp. 45, Yucaipa, CA 92399.