

DAWN MUSSELMAN INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER 2005

The Pacific Northwest Association Local Masters Swimming Committee proudly presents the 2005 Dawn Musselman Inspirational Swimmer Award to **Gene Crossett**.

Gene, Kathy Casey characterizes you as the “Energizer Bunny” – always there, just going and going. The record books reflect your persistence, with World Top Ten placings in 9 of the last 19 years for long course and in 7 of the past 15 years for short course. You’ve achieved USMS Top Ten rankings in 15 of the past 25 years in long course, including *first* in last year’s 800 meter free; in 8 of the past 15 years for short course meters; and in *19 of the past 21 years* for short course yards. Currently you hold 38 PNA records spanning 15 years and four age groups.

But like your contemporary, Dawn Musselman, the records are simply testament to your passion. Every day, whether at Meadowbrook in the winter or View Ridge pool for nearly 30 summers, you do your 1000-yard workout with snorkel and pull buoy. Come competition day, even though a steadying hand may be required, you dive off the starting block, quietly showing the rest of us that age need be no barrier to fitness and sport.

Don Rehfeldt, who graciously provides that steadying hand, says, “Gene is quick to thank officials and volunteers for their effort at the end of a meet. Still the father figure, he wants me to call when I get home after dropping him off ... to be sure I’m home safe. Even at 91 Gene gets “teenage type” excited prior to meets and retains that excitement afterward. He chatters to and from a meet about swimmers, events, and times and on how well he has been treated at the meet. He asks about his time, how his dive was, and how his stroke looks after each race – he is still trying to improve.”

Don adds that you are extremely loyal to your friends, fellow swimmers, and your beloved University of Washington for whom you swam (Class of ’35). You still visit the rest home that cared for your wife prior to her passing several years ago to tell jokes and riddles to the residents. You still have lunch with other retirees from Graybar Electric, two decades after you retired. And you continue to prompt others to defy their ages.

Gene, for your inspiration to the entire membership of the Pacific Northwest Association of Masters Swimmers, and by your example of good sportsmanship, encouragement and commitment, the PNA is proud to recognize you as the Dawn Musselman Inspirational Swimmer for 2005.

For the PNA Board:

Jeanne Ensign, President

For the Nominating Committee:

Steve Peterson

