

Jack Buchannan

US Masters Swimming



Jack Buchannan is considered by most Colorado Masters Swimmers as the “Father of Colorado Masters Swimming”.

Jack was born in Denver on Aug. 4, 1933, graduated from South High School and the University of Denver, served in the U.S. Army, and was a vibrant teacher and coach at Englewood High School.

Jack founded the Colorado Swimming Officials Association in the 1960’s. During his teaching and Coaching at Englewood High School, he also coached Masters Swimming at the Denver Athletic Club.

He was involved in the creation of the Colorado Masters Swimming Association (COMSA). He was meet director of the first Colorado Masters Swimming State Meet at “his” pool at Englewood High School in 1972. He was the state’s first Registrar and President. At those meets, he was the Clerk of the Course, meet director, facilities director, coach, and

counter for Peggy's 500 and 1000 yard races. In 1973, he started Englewood Englemeisters Masters Swim team and encouraged countless adults to join in.

He became very involved in US Masters Swimming at the national level and with his wife Peggy attended many USMS national conventions. He served on the National Legislative, Coaches, Registration, Insurance, and Recognition and Award committees along the way between 1984 and 2007. In 2003 Jack earned the Dorothy Donnelly Award, the highest National Award given to a volunteer.

At the same time, he coordinated relays at the USMS National meet from 1972 until 2004. He also became the social chairman at the national meets, making sure everyone was having a good time. Many times he would "sponsor a swimmer" who could not afford to go to nationals.

He dedicated his life not only to nurturing his family and friends, but also to numerous organizations, including Vail Community Guest Services, Vail Club 50, and the Vail Valley Foundation.

Jack has been honored for his service by the American Red Cross, Special Olympics, YMCA, Colorado Association of Swimming Officials, and numerous park and recreation districts.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Peggy; his son Scott; daughter Lori; stepchildren Scott, Lori, Brian and Kimberly; and 12 grandchildren.