

THE ELMER KRUSE MEMORIAL

A tribute to Square Dancers who have given their time and talents to make Square Dancing just a little happier for all of us.



2010 HONORED DANCERS

Joe and Marilyn Obal

Joe and Marilyn Obal have been involved with square dancing since before they were married, Joe started square dancing in 1953, He was helping at a square dance class in 1956, which is where he met his soon-to-be wife, Marilyn. They were engaged in 1958 and married on November 11, 1959.

In 1958, Joe started calling for various youth groups. This was followed by heading up the young adult square dance program at the St. Louis YMCA for 5 years, Joe and Marilyn started the Dandy Dancers Square Dance club in 1965 and taught square dance lessons there for many years. Other Illinois square dance clubs they started are the Alley Cats, Belleville Moose Squares, Half Breeds and St. Paul Squares. Joe celebrated 50 years of calling on October 3, 2008.

Joe has served as a director of the Illinois Square Dance Callers Association. He has also written educational and training articles that appeared in the Association's Newsletter. A special honor was bestowed on him in 1968 when he was chosen "SCALLER" of the year - the highest honor given by the Association.

Joe and Marilyn have been members since 1960 of the St. Louis Callers and Teachers Guild and have served in various offices over the years. They are also members of American Callers Association and are life members of the St Louis Metro Square and Round Dance Association, In 1970, they were Assistant Chairmen of the 1970 Jamboree and have been committee chairmen for other Jamborees. Joe has also served as a Federation Board Member.

Marilyn was Treasurer of the Southwest Illinois Association of Square and Round Dance Clubs for 5 years.

Joe and Marilyn's family includes daughter, Laura, son Doug and his wife Michelle and 3 grandchildren. Joe is a retired farmer. Marilyn's hobby is genealogy and she is a charter Member of the St. Clair County Genealogical Society. Joe and Marilyn celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 11, 2009,

Congratulations to Joe and Marilyn Obal We thank them for their many years and countless hours of teaching new dancers and caller education Elmer Kruse Memorial Committee

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