



Larry Roath for Meritorious Service



I am surprised and very honored to be chosen to the Greater Fredericksburg USBCA's Hall of Fame for Meritorious Services. Others also serve our Association and I believe all need recognition of some sort. However, since I have received the distinct and honorable recognition let me tell you a little about my bowling career and what drives me to work for this Association, the sport of bowling and the people who participate.

I first bowled when I was 19 years old in Ashland, Oregon. Went with a friend just to go. The center was small with no score keeper or mechanical ball returns. Kids my age set pins and returned your bowling ball. We kept our own scores and no cartoons. My first league was in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Averaged about 150 but the seed was planted and I have been bowling ever since. I have no formal training as a bowler, in fact, I learned what the dots and arrows meant from a bowling buddy while I was in the Army in the early 60's. Needless to say, I have seen the evolution of bowling in all respects. I learned it is a fantastic sport. There is a place for anyone regardless of their physical condition, age or ability. A bowler can be part of a game that will provide comradery, joy, anger and competition. A sport with something for everyone. When I was given a chance to help grow and support bowling in Fredericksburg thru the local Association, how could I not be part of it. Therefore, throughout the life of our Association, I have worked as a board member, spent a lot of time with committees, written and distributed its newsletter, worked tournaments and wrote operating instructions. I currently inspect lanes and work on the Awards committee which includes distributing awards and keeping the records necessary for our Center Honor Boards. I designed the Honor Boards, built them and continue to keep the listings current. I am very pleased our current LOGO is my design.

We are fortunate that in 2005, a few fine people headed by Bobby Phillips and Deborah Johnson led the effort to form our GFUSBCA and separate our operation from the Washington Association. Maybe you can find a way to help our current Association make bowling better for us all.