



Al Stevens Milestone 2002

It was during Al's college years in 1958 he became interested in square dancing. This is when Al was bitten by the calling bug. Al decided to teach himself to call as others before him had done. He would take singing call figures and use the calls for his patter. Thus he started his career in 1958 with logic and determination. Shortly after his third anniversary as a square dancer Al enrolled in a callers school.

Eventually Al began visiting military recruiters and it seemed the Air Force offered the best deal and he enlisted. He continued to develop his calling skills while in the military. When he was transferred to California he had the opportunity to gain further recognition and popularity. Al was subsequently assigned to Tripoli in North Africa. His arriving flight into Tripoli was the departing flight the present club caller was taking home. Thus began Al's numerous overseas calling gigs.

Al has called in all 50 US states and 28 foreign countries. While stationed in Hawaii he danced and called with many well-known callers. Al was invited to join CALLERLAB in the early 1970's but military duties precluded his attendance until 1976. He began serving on several committees and was elected to the Board of Governors in 1992.

While stationed in Germany, Al began calling and traveling throughout Europe. Al was elected Vice President, Training Director and served 5 years as President of the European Callers and Teachers Association (ECTA). He was instrumental in starting a note serve and bringing calling information to European Callers. Al is editor of his own note service and is a CALLERLAB Accredited Caller-Coach, training other callers through caller's colleges. Al has conducted more than 48 colleges, including colleges in Sweden, Denmark, Germany and the Czech Republic. Al is the first Accredited Caller-Coach outside of the North American continent. He has recorded for Windsor, Sting, Dance Ranch record companies and featured on the Sets In Order "Sound" Documentaries. Al has served in numerous capacities within CALLERLAB including Chairman of the Overseas Advisory Committee and has been a full time caller in Europe since 1983.

Al's influence through out the square dance activity has been widespread. His influence and impact is evident in the numerous callers he has trained and helped reach success. Al has brought a high degree of professionalism and enthusiasm to the European Community. Al has contributed significantly to the spread and popularity of square dancing throughout Europe. Al, along with his wife, Sabine, continue to serve CALLERLAB and the square dance activity with vigor and enthusiasm.