



ED FOOTE

MILESTONE 2008

Ed Foote has been calling forty-three years and during them he has attended sixteen National Square Dance Conventions and thirty-three CALLERLAB Conventions. During all of this time he has been an active contributor and diligent worker in support of modern square dancing.

One of the early goals of CALLERLAB was to bring stability to the square dance world by standardizing the terms we use. Long before CALLERLAB started down that road, Ed was helping to create those lists. In large part through his efforts the first list of *Challenge Dancing's Basic Calls* was published in 1973. He continued to have an important role in the maintenance of that list and was able, finally, to bring it under the oversight of the CALLERLAB Challenge Committee. He was the first chairman of that committee and remained in that position for thirty years. His work in publishing and maintaining the list of Challenge calls made it possible for dancers to know what was expected of them and for callers to calls to use. He helped to make the playing field even and, more importantly, fair.

Ed has been a dedicated teacher. He was one of the first CALLERLAB Accredited Caller Coaches and was on the staff of one-hundred and ten caller schools and seminars in thirty-eight states, three Canadian provinces, and seven countries outside of the North American Continent. In addition he is one the most prolific authors in the square dance community, not in writing calls, but in explaining how to dance them, to teach them, and to use them. He has written articles on a monthly basis for the last twenty-five years. All of his writing was with the goal of producing better dancers who feel good about their dancing and will stay with the activity rather than leave in frustration.

Ed also started the National Advanced and Challenge Convention in 1968 and, with his wife Marilyn, managed it for thirty-five years. The early years of this event were not the money maker it became. In fact, it required out of pocket expenditures to make it work yet he saw a need to provide this dance opportunity because no one else was providing it at the time. It went on to establish and maintain the standard by which those programs were called, not just here but world wide.