

# Seven Receive IAABO Life Membership Rings

Seven of the best that IAABO has to offer were honored by their peers at the recent annual Spring Seminar held in Orlando, FL. The honorees comprising the Class of 2004 included: John Donnelly, Bd. 30 MA; Roger MacTavish, Bd. 39 NY; John McDonnell, Bd. 6 CT; Robert Miske, Bd. 53 NY; Joe Mitchell, Bd. 134 MD; Henry Ryan, Bd. 28 MA; and Dr. Ron Brown, Bd. 4 CO. The Fifth Annual Life Member Ceremony played out before a sold out crowd of over 200 delegates, relatives and friends. They gathered and paid homage to those members selected to receive the highest award that IAABO can bestow upon any one member of the organization: Life Membership and the beautifully designed and crafted IAABO Life Member Ring that accompanies the recognition. It was the fifth consecutive year that the ceremony had been sold out. The Life Member Ceremony, in 5 short years, has become the social highlight of the IAABO spring seminar. This year was no exception. Attendees were treated to a super menu, a trip down memory lane through each honoree's remarks, a PowerPoint presentation of their accomplishments on and off the court, and the actual presentation of "the Ring." Honorees this year averaged 35 years of membership and service to IAABO. Each one was chosen after an extensive review and evaluation process conducted by the IAABO Life Membership Committee. All of them exhibited the final qualities one would expect when placed on a pedestal by their peers: honesty, integrity, fairness, family commitment, and a devotion to basketball officiating excellence. One person in the luncheon crowd was overheard to say after the awards had been presented, "I only wish every member in my local board could have been here to witness such a fine hour. This was a real tribute to all of IAABO."

Yes, it can be stated that the ceremony was a tribute to all of IAABO and, yes, plans are already underway for next year's awards presentation. It can also be said (to borrow a page from the U.S. Marine Corps), the Class of 2004 Honorees were IAABO's "Chosen Few."

NOTE: Local board officers should contact the IAABO International Office directly for information and procedures to follow when submitting a nominee for IAABO Life Membership.



**Roger MacTavish, Bd. 39 NY**  
**49-Year IAABO Member**  
**Chairman, Rules Examination Committee**  
**Uniquely Gifted Clinician and Interpreter for 30 years**

**Dr. Ron Brown, Bd. 4 CO**  
**24-Year IAABO Member**  
**65th IAABO President**  
**All-American Baseball**  
**University of Colorado**



**John McDonnell, Bd. 6 CT**  
**35-Year IAABO Member**  
**Active Official in Board 6 for 33 years**  
**Interpreter for 20 years**  
**State Board Interpreter**  
**Asst. Chair Vis. and Ed. Com. for 15 years**



**Joe Mitchell, Bd. 134 MD**  
**33-Year IAABO Member**  
**Board President,**  
**Chair Mem. Dev. Com.,**  
**IAABO Ed. and Vis. Com.**  
**Rules Exam. Com.**  
**CIAA Hall of Fame**



**Bob Miske, Bd. 53 NY**  
**40-Year IAABO Member**  
**Board President, Vice President, and Secretary for 15 years**  
**IAABO Const. and Vis. and Ed. Com.**  
**NY Baseball Hall of Fame**



**John Donnelly, Bd. 30 MA**  
**35-Year IAABO Member**  
**President State Board 15 (2 terms)**  
**Board Secretary for 31 years**  
**Selected Top 10 Official in Massachusetts**



**Henry Ryan, Bd. 28 MA**  
**31-Year IAABO Member**  
**Board President and Vice President (2 terms)**  
**Interpreter**  
**Delegate to IAABO Convention for 15 years**  
**Rules Exam. and Women's Com.**

