

# *Hall of Fame - Class of 2011*

## **Larry Pressler**

**McAllen, Texas**

### **Achievements, Honors and Awards:**

#### **Education:**

- 1972 Bachelor of Science Degree from Texas A & M University – Recreation and Parks Administration with additional studies in Wildlife and Fisheries Science – Texas A & M University – 3 ½ years

#### **Texas Amateur Athletic Federation:**

- Served as T.A.A.F. Regional Director
  - 1974 – 1991 Region 2
- Served as T.A.A.F. Executive Board Member
  - 1978 – 1989 Region 2
- Served as T.A.A.F. State Commissioner
  - 1981 – 1983 Golf
- Served on T.A.A.F. Committees
  - 1978 – 1979 Legislative Issues – Chairperson
  - Served on Executive Director Selection Committee for 3 former T.A.A.F. Executive Directors
  - Served on T.A.A.F. Games of Texas Development Committee
  - 1990-1997 Served as a member of the T.A.A.F. Finance Committee
- T.A.A.F. Awards
  - 1992 Koger Stokes Award
  - 2010 Life Member Award
- 1979-2009; Under his leadership, McAllen hosted numerous annual Region 2 T.A.A.F. Track meets, Golf and Basketball tournaments, 18 T.A.A.F. State tournaments and 3 Masters Track & Field meets
- 2000, 2001, 2005, 2008 McAllen Parks and Recreation Department received the T.A.A.F. Silver Member City Award; 2002, 2003 T.A.A.F. Bronze Member City Award; 2004, 2007, T.A.A.F. Gold Member City Award and in 2009 McAllen received the T.A.A.F. Platinum Member City Award
- Instrumental in the growth of T.A.A.F. by supporting staff to serve as Regional Director and Executive Board Representative
- 1986–2009; Under his leadership, McAllen Parks & Recreation Department has continually supported the T.A.A.F. Games of Texas by raising \$15-\$20,000 annually so 75-125 athletes could attend the “Games”.

#### **Other Accomplishments:**

- 1973 - 1976 Began professional career with City of McAllen as Director of Recreation and Aquatics
- 1976 - 2009 Served as Director of Parks & Recreation for the City of McAllen -- Directed expansion of McAllen's parks from 7 in 1976 to currently 52, and ball fields from 6 to 60. Oversaw growth in full-time staff from 17 to current 139 and part-time staff from 36 to over 200
- 1977 - 1987 State Vice-President for the Texas Amateur Softball Association (Texas ASA)
- 1978 Awarded Parks and Recreation Professional of the Year in Texas by Texas Amateur Athletic Union
- 1980 - 2000 Co-Founder & Co-Chairman of the U.S./Mexico Border Conference on Parks and Wildlife
- 1985 – 1988 Texas Recreation & Park Society Legislative Committee Chairperson
- 2001 & 2002 Texas Recreation & Park Society President's Award Recipient
- Served three terms on Board of Directors of the Texas Turfgrass Association, also served as Association President, and is now a Life Member and Master Certified Professional Turfgrass Manager
- 2008 Paul Harris Fellow Award Recipient - Rotary International
- 2007 - 2009 Co-Founder and Chairman of the Board of the World Birding Center, Inc.
- 2008 Inducted into Rio Grande Valley Sports Hall of Fame
- Texas A&M University Dr. Leslie M. Reid Distinguished Alumni Award in the field of Parks and Recreation

\*\*\* Married to his junior high school sweetheart from Fredericksburg Texas for 39 years -- has two daughters and five grandchildren -- currently resides in College Station, Texas

**Inducted into the T.A.A.F. Hall of Fame on January 13, 2011**

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**McAllen, Texas**

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**January 13, 2011**