



DON WILLIAMSON

MILESTONE 2012

A Charter Member of CALLERLAB, Don served on many committees. He is a Caller Coach Emeritus and has conducted many caller schools nurturing many beginning callers. He and his wife were inducted into the State of Tennessee's Square and Round Dance Hall of Fame and the Western North Carolina Square and Round Dance Association Hall of Fame. In the 1970s he wrote several square dance figures, two of which remain very popular today—Flutter Wheel and Reverse the Flutter. In the 1980s he formed one of the first vocal groups made up of square dance callers. They proved to be quite successful, entertaining for over 20 years. For 24 years he was employed by the State of Tennessee at the Great Valley Development Center for the Mentally Handicapped. He has done extensive work in this area, including working with assisted living and nursing homes. In the 60s he was owner and producer of one of the most successful square dance labels in the business. While operating his label, he helped many young callers jump start their careers.

In the early 1970's Don heard a relatively unknown caller (with an amazing voice) from Tallahassee, FL. Don was so impressed with this young caller that he added him to his Red Boot Records label and had him put a vocal on a song that he had in the can. That song, "Early Morning Secretary", and that caller, **Elmer Sheffield Jr.** quickly became household words in the square dance industry. The rest, as they say, is history. The song went on to become one of the biggest selling square dance records in modern history. Elmer went on to become one of the biggest names in the calling industry, eventually forming his own square dance label – ESP Records.

During his lifetime, **Don Williamson** has worn many hats – teacher, coach, husband, father, caller, semi-pro shortstop, line dance instructor, recording artist, record producer, awesome baritone singer.

Since that time, Don has called in almost all 50 states, Canada, and numerous foreign countries. He has called and taught lessons for clubs in East Tennessee and Western North Carolina. He and Mildred have been elected into the Hall of Fame by both the Tennessee and Western North Carolina Square and Round Dance Associations.