

# Gold Card (Life Member) - 2010

## Ernie Kinney

### Presented by Buddy Weaver

The CALLERLAB Gold Card Award has been presented only 14 times in thirty two years. Three of those recipients are here tonight. CALLERLAB Life Membership, known as the Gold Card, is presented to long term CALLERLAB members who have provided outstanding service to the organization.

Members who have been awarded the Gold Card include, **Bill Davis, Herb Egender, Cal Golden, Lee Helsel, Jon Jones, John Kaltenthaler, Arnie Kronenberger, Frank Lane, Martin Mallard, Jim Mayo, Bob Osgood, Bill Peters, Gloria Rios Roth, and Bob Van Antwerp.** It is truly a select group. Their service to square dancing and CALLERLAB has gone ABOVE the ordinary and HAS NOT gone unrecognized.

Now a new name joins this elite set.

Our honoree was born and raised in Oklahoma. Following University graduation, he served our country as a United States Marine. Shortly after leaving the service, he took a teaching job, moving to what would become his permanent home in the San Joaquin Valley of California.

It was there in 1958, he started square dancing and began calling in 1960. In his fifty years of calling, he has taught beginner lessons every single year. He will tell you that teaching beginners is the most important and most over-looked skill of being a caller.

Very early in his calling career, he saw the need for and led efforts to standardize calls while creating a list of calls so that traveling dancers could dance when away from their home club. When CALLERLAB instituted the dance programs or as they were known at the time levels., our caller led efforts to make CALLERLAB programs the standard in California.

As the first caller to organize a caller-run festival in California, the Sequoia Stomp was the first west coast festival to use and promote CALLERLAB levels; the first to have multiple halls with various levels.

He is the first record producer to use CALLERLAB levels on cue sheets, many figures using all the CALLERLAB levels. He is also the first record producer to record two couple called patter records at CALLERLAB levels

. A devoted member of CALLERLAB, he served on the Board of Governors for 11 years, served 5 years on the Executive Committee, and also served as Chairman of CALLERLAB for 2 terms. During his time as Chairman, CALLERLAB met the challenge of mandatory BMI/ASCAP licensing and at this time of unrest, he stood before the membership, calm and steadfast.

During his time as Chairman, he also presided over the first Mini-Lab convention. He makes us laugh, sometimes he makes us roll our eyes and groan. He is truly one of a kind. For outstanding service, the CALLERLAB Gold Card is presented to **Ernie Kinney.**