

I am submitting this nomination to induct Gary Pressley into the North Carolina Water Ski Hall of Fame for 2012. Gary was a Skier, Sr. Judge, Sr. Scorer, Pam Am Judge and Head of the Seeding Committee. He was also the most knowledgeable judge I have ever known and could handle any situation with authority but with calmness and fairness to all involved. He treated everyone fairly and by the rules. He also brought plenty of officials with him to tournaments as his wife, Becky, is a Sr. Scorer and daughter, Meredith, is a Sr. Judge, Sr. Scorer and also a lawyer.

Gary was also a godly man. He was a faithful member of Biltmore Baptist where he served as a deacon, Member of the SPAN (Servants Paying Attention to Needs), and an AWANA leader. I will certainly miss his devotionals on Sunday mornings during ski tournaments.

Gary was also a jack of all trades. I remember some friends of mine had gotten a new motor home and had dropped me off at a ski tournament in Charleston. They were having trouble getting their slide-out to slide-in. After spending all day on Saturday on the phone with technicians trouble shooting with no solutions to their problem I asked Gary if he would just go over and see if he could help. Probably ten minutes later Gary returned and I assumed he couldn't help. When I asked about the problem, he simply said that he had by passed something and the slide-out was now sliding-in. Wish I had asked him to drop by sooner as it would have saved my friends a whole day of aggravation.

I could go on and on about the solutions Gary came up with over the years but I'm sure all of you are aware of his talents. I don't know how I am going to be able to start going to tournaments this year knowing that he won't be there. I thank him for all his help to me while working tournaments. I have called him plenty of times while he was judging in the boat and he always solved my problem.

North Carolina should be so proud to have had such a knowledgeable, fair and hardworking member of our skiing family as Gary Pressley. For me, tournaments will never be the same without him. Thank you Gary for being my friend.

Ann Harrington