Dr. John A. “Jack” Baker, was the consummate Physical Educator. He was a leader among leaders, a true gentleman, mentor, visionary and we benefited from his intelligence, integrity, selflessness, and his humor. Jack received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Brockport State College, his Master of Science Degree from the University of Colorado and his Doctorate from Arizona State University. He began his physical education teaching career at Canton Central School teaching grades K-12. During Jack’s career he taught physical education teacher preparation courses at the University of Portland and Murray State University. He retired from the University at Buffalo where he was an Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and Exercise Science.

His service to our profession began in 1972, when he was elected President of Kentucky AHPERD. Through the years, Jack has held numerous positions within NYS AHPERD. He served as Western Zone President, NYS AHPERD president in 2001, he was a Member of the Board of Directors, state Journal Editor, state Treasurer for eleven years, Conference Site Selection Committee, Chair of the Distinguished Service and Professional of the year Awards committee, chair of the bylaws and operating codes committee, just to name a few. He graciously shared his wealth of experience and knowledge as a teacher, coach and professional. His presentations at meetings and conferences and are legend. His achievements did not go unnoticed as accolades were received from the Council for Physical Education Service Award, the Higher Education Section Service Award and the Higher Education, Research Section Service Award and the Retirees Section. In 1991 he was awarded, our then highest award bestowed on a member for meritorious service, the State’s Distinguished Service Award.

Let us together celebrate Jack and his lifetime service to NYS AHPERD as we posthumously bestow upon him our first NYS AHPERD Lifetime Service Award. A life well lived, well done Dr. Baker...