

Deb is actually a two time award winner of the Honor Award, receiving it first in 1999 and again in 2008. This was for her contributions to our profession and to IAHPERD through her leadership and meritorious service which we will hear more about during her next award she is receiving tonight, the Steve France award. But, I would like to share a testimonial from the IAHPERD member who nominated Deb for this Honorary Life Membership award.

Debby has been a large part of IAHPERD for me over the years. Her leadership as President made others want to be a part of IAHPERD and be involved on committees or as a chair. Because of Debby, I begin to take a more active role within IAHPERD. As the Recognition chair, she took this position to a new level putting together information that made award winners feel extra special. Of course - the anticipation of when was Debby going to cry made the evening that more memorable. Her smile and dedication to IAHPERD make her deserving of this honor.

After spending 35 years teaching Adapted PE in the Des Moines Public School district, she retired in 2012. Even after retirement she continued her involvement through her work with the Special Olympics, continued membership in our association, attendance at state conventions (37 consecutive years!), attendance at district & national conventions, and standing right here as I am now doing as the Recognition Chair....a position she held for 15 years. As one of her colleagues stated, "It has been a great privilege to work with her." I can honestly say the same thing as you have helped me transition into this position that we both feel very strongly about. I had big shoes to fill....or should I say, big tears to fill but your willingness to still extend your service to myself and to IAHPERD with the little things is greatly appreciated.

Deb – you are very deserving of this award as you have given students, colleagues, and our members a lifetime of memories through your kind heart, smiles, hugs, and service.

Please join me in congratulating our 2015 Honorary Life Membership Award winner, Deb Eldred.