

When you speak of one, you usually hear of the other. Hal Garwood and James Patterson are both very accomplished, respected, and humble. They care about one another and have a professional and personal bond that I think we all can admire. This was made very clear to me when they both emailed me their award information sheet. They each included a brief note to me that read...

"Dear Jen, Please don't mention all that I listed. Jim has much more service than I and he deserves to be heard more than me."

"Jen, mention all of Hal's awards as he has a special award as being chosen for the Cedar Rapids freedom festival hero award for his service in the community for his work with kids. They only take 5 nominations and only 3 were selected that year."

So, to be fair and respect their wishes, here is what they BOTH have accomplished....

\*Hal and Jim became members of IAHPERD in 1967. That's 35 years of professional membership and after they both retired from teaching in 2002, they have continued 17 more years as active retirees.

\*They taught in the Cedar Rapids Community School District throughout their entire careers and did at least 15 years of coaching at the middle school level too

\*They served on the Cedar Rapids Curriculum Development committee for 5 years

\*As co-chairs of the Jump Rope for Heart Task Force for 12 years...they saw fundraising increase from \$200,000 to \$1,200,000!

\*They still continue to co-coach the Iowa Skipper Jump Rope team that Jim founded in 1989, with Hal joining just one year later in 1990. And they are the co-directors of the summer Iowa Skipper Jump Rope Camp

\*Both are state Elementary Teacher of the Year award winners, with James being the first one ever selected by our association

\*The HO Maxey Humanitarian Award has been bestowed upon both of them as well

\*They attend convention, they have presented at state and district conventions, they have helped with convention planning

Here are just a few individual examples: James has chaired the retiree committee and attended several board meetings. He has also advocated for physical education by writing letters to senators especially Todd Taylor, Wally Horn, and Robb Hogg. He has been officiating for 50 years! 50 years of Track & Field and 37 years of football and has been honored as a Girls XC official of the year and a Boys XC official of the year.

Hal was inducted into the Iowa Speed Skating Hall of Fame, named the Linn County Educator of the Year, and in 1969 was called away from his teaching to serve our country in Vietnam before returning to teaching in 1970.

I would like to close with some personal messages shared with me...

Kathy Szabo mentioned...

*We in CRCSD joke about how they are somewhat similar to an old married couple when you hear them during long and I mean long, discussions about the right placement for the picnic tables at the Fun Run, or which direction we face for Iowa Skipper Halftime shows, or even which golf course they will t-off at tomorrow. However, we also stand in awe at their continued ability to be advocates for physical activity in our state- and always side by side. They are dedicated. They are mentors. They are storytellers and encouragers. They are advocates. They are loved by people everywhere. Jim and Hal, I am thankful and completely blessed each day by their guidance in my career!*

Sue Bullis said...

*Both Hal and Jim have committed more hours than I can count in assisting the Skippers. They take great interest in the members of the team both at practice and outside of Skippers. They encourage them in their pursuits of musical, drama, or athletic activities by attending their events and acknowledging their achievements in them. They are positive role models for all of us! They have more energy than I can believe. The guys seem to be always on the go and contributing to others along the way. I am proud to be friends and colleagues with them.*

Jan Grenko shared...

*Both Jim and Hal and spent their life dedicated to the message of physical education and the importance of exercise and movement. They have impacted so many individuals as physical educators, coaches, Iowa Skipper leaders. Both have been a valuable part of my life for over 50 years. Jim was my first PE teacher before my elementary school opened and I met Hal in 1st or 2nd grade. Both have pushed me as my teacher then as coaches to mentors and finally as peers/friends. Hal is truly the reason I became a teacher. I am forever grateful to have both wonderful men in my life.*

Hal and Jim....we are ALL grateful to have you as members of our association and for your continued service. You are positively impacting our youth in so many different ways and I hope tonight many of us will leave inspired by all that you have accomplished.