



On Friday, September 23, 2016 Tom Boak was inducted into the International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame. The ceremony was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Atlanta. The 2016 Hall of Fame Class included eight inductees from three countries: USA, France and Australia. The group included four swimmers, one diver, one synchronized swimmer, one water polo club and one contributor. When making the announcement about his induction, the International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame described Tom as one of the great ambassadors and promoters of adult swimming.

Tom's swimming career had its early beginnings at Liberty High School. At LHS Tom swam on the Liberty High School Swim Team from 1959-1961 and was a District Champion in the 100 Breaststroke. After graduation, Tom went to Bucknell University where he was a member of the Bison swim team from 1961-63. While at Bucknell, Tom won the 100 breaststroke to help lead the Bison to the team title at the 1963 Middle-Atlantic Conference Championships. The team championship came during an era when Bucknell won 15 league titles in a span of 20 seasons, 10 of which came in the Middle-Atlantic Conference and five in the East Coast Conference.



After a 15 year layoff from the sport, he got back in the pool and began competing in Masters Swimming in 1978 at his first meet in San Antonio, Texas. He went on to earn four All-America honors in individual events and four All-America honors in relay events during his illustrious career. He has been National Champion a number of times and has also been World Champion. But Boak's achievements in Masters Swimming have extended beyond his competition success. He served as the organization's president for four years (1985-1989), past president for four years and Chair of Rules for four years. He was the founder of the Woodlands Masters Swim Team and the Lone Star Masters. Additionally, he established the Woodlands Masters Relay Meet, which has been held for 32 consecutive years. He is currently serving as Treasurer of United States Aquatic Sports.



Tom's passion for the sport is still there 41 years after that first meet in San Antonio. This month, he swam at Nationals in Mesa, Arizona where he placed 2nd in the 100 Backstroke, 3rd in the 50 Breaststroke, 50 and 200 Backstroke, and 5th in the 100 Breaststroke. Tom is thankful that he has adopted a lifestyle which keeps him fit and active. He is married to second wife Carolyn who is also an accomplished Masters Swimmer. They live in the Woodlands, Texas.