

THE GERRY BYERS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE 2009

Gerry Byers spent most of his adult life dedicated to helping persons with disabilities achieve their employment goals, and to the National/Iowa Rehabilitation Association. He spent 30+ years employed as a placement specialist for the State of Iowa Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVRS) assigned to the Council Bluffs office. As a member of NRA/IRA, he was tireless in his efforts, particularly in the area of membership. Often the recipient of a free membership (but already a lifetime member), he would donate it to a new person. He rarely missed a state, regional, or national convention, and throughout his tenure, held several offices. He was a Bill Donohue and Margaret Fairbairn Award recipient for his exemplary achievement in job placement.

In memory of our friend who passed away Christmas Day 1998, the IRA Board of Directors has established an annual award. **This award will be presented by the President of IRA at the Awards Luncheon at the Annual Conference.**

NOMINEE _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (H) _____ **(W)** _____

SPONSOR _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (H) _____ **(W)** _____

NOMINEE'S EMPLOYER _____

JOB TITLE _____

Nominations should include this cover page and a letter from the sponsor detailing the nominee's achievements. Letters from clients, co-workers and other Association members are encouraged.

CRITERIA

- Must be member of the National Rehabilitation Association
- Employed in the field of rehabilitation or closely related occupation relevant to persons with disabilities
- Demonstrated a significant impact on persons with disabilities and to the Association
- **Nominations should be submitted to Matt Bruinekool, Drake University, School of Education, 25th & University, Des Moines, IA 50310, no later than September 1, 2009.**