



# NEWSLETTER

January 2023

[www.worldacro.com](http://www.worldacro.com)

Editor, Dagmar Munn

The highlight of every World Acrobatics Society Congress is certainly the gala Hall of Fame Banquet, and watching the inductees receive their well-deserved recognition. If you have someone in mind to nominate for the big event all the information you'll need is available at [worldacro.com](http://worldacro.com).

**We look forward to celebrating and welcoming the class of 2023!**



- Nominations close February 12, 2023
  - *So, don't delay!*
- Only current 2023 members of the World Acrobatics Society can submit a nomination.
  - [Join or Renew HERE](#)
- The only method of making a nomination is online.
  - [Online nomination forms are HERE](#)
- The WAS 2023 Congress & Induction Banquet will be held: September 8-10, 2023.
  - *Make sure both you and your nominee are available to attend*
- There are specific criteria for each award category.
  - [These criteria are available HERE](#)
- The final selection of inductees will be announced in April 2023.



# 2022 Congress Memories

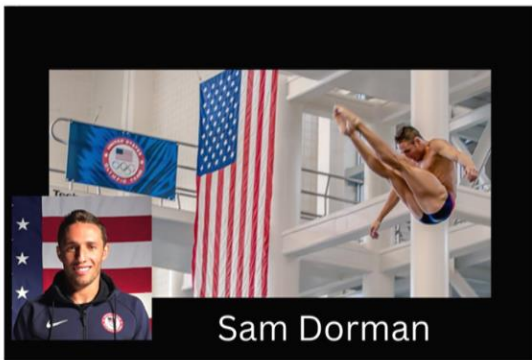


Photos by  
Lisa Cawthron,  
Rich Kenney, and  
WAS members

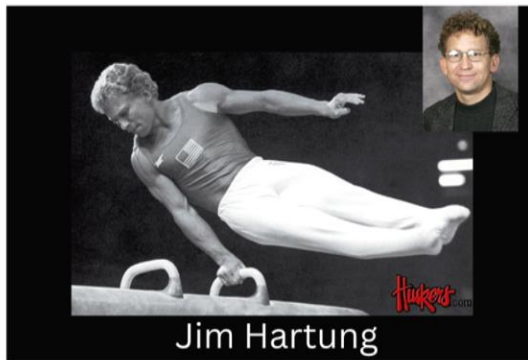




# More... 2022 Congress Memories



Sam Dorman

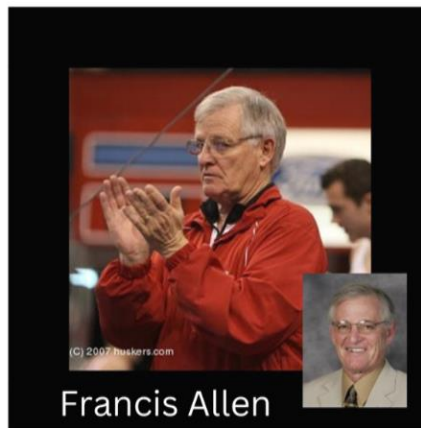


Jim Hartung

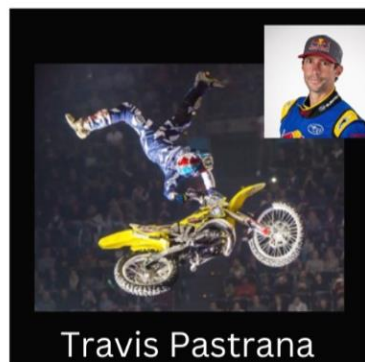


Antoaneta  
Kiselichka

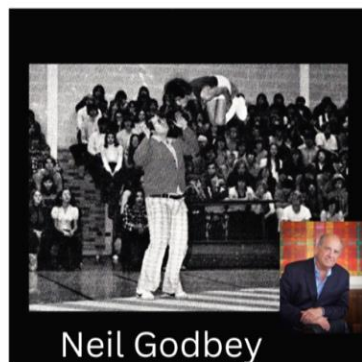
## *Congratulations!* **HALL OF FAME** Class of 2022



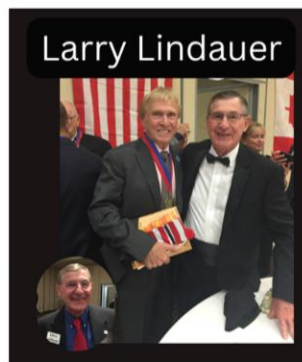
Francis Allen



Travis Pastrana



Neil Godbey



Larry Lindauer



Freddi & Edith Chy



Photos by  
Lisa Cawthron,  
Rich Kenney, and  
WAS members





## **"Memories of Performing at the Friedrichstadt-Palast" (Part 2)**

(Part 1 of this story can be found here: [WAS 2022 October Newsletter](#))

In the last edition of my Comedy Corner, I told you about the fabulous Friedrichstadt-Palast theater in Berlin and the Romanian gymnasts that I worked with while there.

Well, they were preparing this new show when the choreographer said to the talent agent: "We need some comedy in the *Dancing Waiters* number." That agent, who knew me very well replied, "I've got just the person for you."

So, he called us in Holland and very the next day I was choreographing my comedy dance with these incredibly talented dance professionals in Berlin. *(No pressure here!)*

This particular show had a ½-round bar on stage, with a complete orchestra on top. I was the bartender during the entire show (*Type-casting? Ya think?*) and the next act, would come and sit at the bar during the number before them, and go from there into their dance/performances on stage.

I became very popular because I discovered that there was real booze in the bottles and I started serving real drinks to everyone ... during the show!!! When the show staff finally discovered that the booze was missing, they glued the bottles down. No problem - - 'Bartender Bobby' brought along several long straws in order to siphon the booze out of the bottles ... until they were eventually empty. *(Ah well ... fun over!)*



*Bartender Bobby with the Romanian gymnasts.*



## (Comedy Corner Continued)



*In the pool with the 'Lobster Ladies'... Bobby very happy!!!*

Then I performed my trademark comedy striptease on the board and dove into the pool...where four gorgeous Romanian 'Lobster Ladies' were swimming. The pool then descended under the stage and moved off to the side...which took 10 minutes or so, during which time we played in the water and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

It was the most fun show I ever did at the Palast,  
...or maybe anywhere!



Have a look at some wonderful and entertaining information on 'The Palast' here, from old to new:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVRKjN3jxcc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKrIkeSzFPA>

<https://www.palast.berlin/en/>

*Bobby Dickson is a WAS 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient and was a diving, tumbling, trampoline, and gymnastics champion. He recently retired from 40+ year career performing comedy acrobatics throughout five continents.*



*More of the 'Lobster Ladies'. The one on my left was also supposed to be in the pool with us...but, she was afraid of water.*

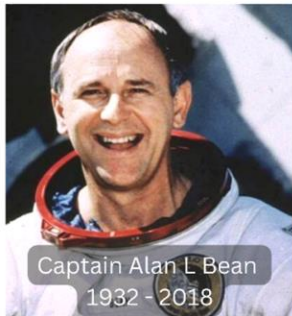
*Bobby's still very happy!!!*

# News & Announcements

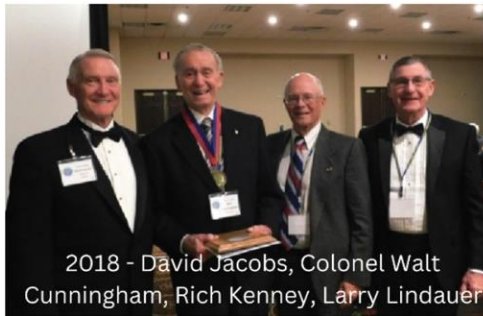
## *Sad News to Share.....*

Former astronaut Colonel Walter Cunningham, who flew into space on Apollo 7, the first flight with the crew in NASA's Apollo Program, died Tuesday, Jan. 3rd in Houston. He was 90 years old.

Colonel Cunningham attended the 2018 World Acrobatics Society Hall of Fame Banquet to accept the Golden Achievement Award in honor of his fellow NASA astronaut, Captain Alan Bean, who passed away only a few months earlier in 2018.



Captain Alan L. Bean  
1932 - 2018



2018 - David Jacobs, Colonel Walt Cunningham, Rich Kenney, Larry Lindauer



1965 - NASA Houston, Texas



Colonel Walt Cunningham  
1932 - 2023

Both Captain Bean and Colonel Cunningham can be seen in the iconic photo of a trampoline and Spaceball demonstration in 1965 at NASA in Houston. The Apollo Astronauts are lined up against the wall with David Jacobs (WAS 2009 Legend) performing a backward somersault above the trampoline, and George Nissen, the inventor of the trampoline, standing on the side edge of the trampoline.

On behalf of the members and friends of the World Acrobatics Society, our heartfelt condolences go out to the Cunningham family.

Press Release: <https://www.nasa.gov/.../apollo-astronaut-walter...>

Captain Alan Bean WAS 2018 Legend video: <https://youtu.be/3HcHVpn9XCI>



2023  
Memberships

JOIN/RENEW HERE!  
worldacro.com

WORLD ACROBATICS SOCIETY  
2023 CONGRESS & HALL OF  
FAME BANQUET

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

SEPTEMBER  
8-10  
2023

Tuscany Casino & Suites  
Las Vegas

Display Your Support  
*Elegantly*  
World Acrobatics Society

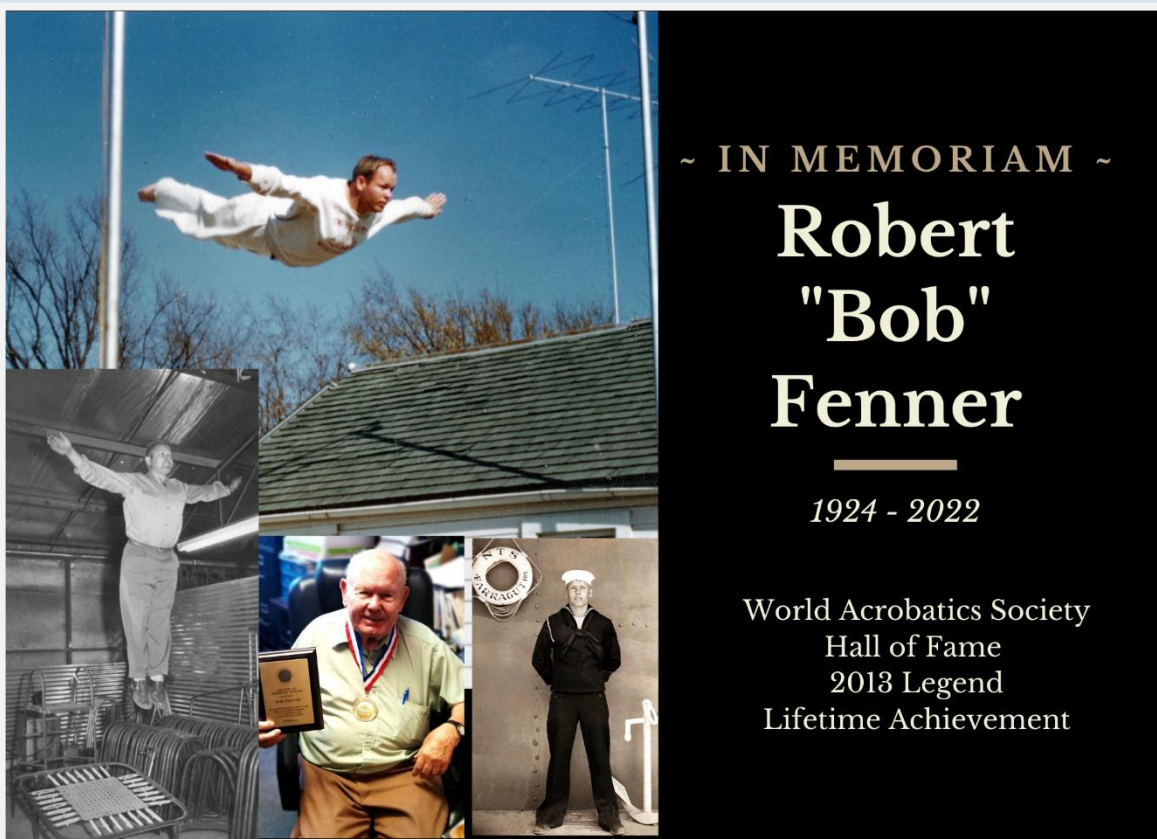


1" Pin  
\$10.00 Includes delivery

[PURCHASE HERE](#)



# In Memoriam



Robert "Bob" Fenner, 2013 WAS Legend (Lifetime Achievement) - - passed away on October 28, 2022 ... *a month and a half following his 98th birthday*

Bob Fenner was an outstanding post-World War II gymnast, trampolinist, and tumbler. George Nissen, who knew Bob in the Navy when they worked out together on the trampoline, recruited Bob out of college in Colorado to do a partner trampoline act. The partnership not only included performing, but also the design of gymnastics equipment, and in particular the trampoline.

In 1951 Bob left Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and opened his own company, Fenner Hamilton Co., in Denver, Colorado, after a short stay in Jefferson, Iowa, doing trampoline design with Bill Sorenson. The company then incorporated as Gym Master Co. and produced gymnastics, circus, and trampoline equipment of innovative design. In circus equipment design, Fenner produced a portable tight wire, a portable trapeze rig, a one-finger stand, aerial hoops, and a portable teeterboard table. Fenner even designed the eight-piece portable three-meter diving board made for Larry Griswold's famous comedy dive act.

Bob continued to work in his machine shop at Fenner Manufacturing well into his 90s, building, designing, and manufacturing equipment for gymnastics, circus, and trampoline.

The Fenner family held a memorial service on November 25, 2022, at 2:30 pm at Ft Logan National Cemetery, Sheridan, Colorado.

On behalf of the members and friends of the World Acrobatics Society, our heartfelt condolences go out to the Fenner family.

Here is a link to Bob Fenner and George Nissen performing together on the trampoline, in the 1950 movie short, "Up in the Air" <https://youtu.be/Sb2z3-QIZnE>