



Fall 2023

NEWSLETTER

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World Acrobatics Society Inducts Class of 2023 into Hall of Fame

Las Vegas, NV (9/9/2023) - - The [World Acrobatics Society](http://www.worldacro.com) (WAS) celebrated its 27th anniversary (1996-2023) at its annual "Hall of Fame" banquet on September 9, 2023, at the Tuscany Casino & Suites in Las Vegas. An audience of nearly 110 people led by Emcee [Donny Ray Evins](#), former gymnast, and now Las Vegas entertainer, honored the Class of 2023 inductees who were selected for their high level of accomplishment and contributions to the acrobatic community. "This year's event was a complete success!" said President Scott Crouse. "A success for both everyone who attended as well as for our stellar group of newly inducted athletes, acrobats, and coaches."



1st row L-R:

The Flying Españas; Noe España, Irene España, Carolina España, Gladis España- Antastasini, and Ivan España

Second row L-R:

Brett Smith (accepting for Morgan Stanley Smith), Rich Kenney, Hideo Mizoguchi accepting for Masayuki Watanabe, Daniela Silivas, Tracy Kontur-Richter, Ryan Doyle, and David Boudia

2023 Hall of Fame Inductees



WAS 2009 Legend David Jacobs with Rich Kenney who received the WAS 2023 Golden Achievement Award



WAS 2015 Legend, Debi Quaid with Brett Smith (accepting for Morgan Stanley Smith), and Nel Filliger WAS 2022 Charlie Pond Service Award recipient



WAS Board Member Lieve Olivera, with Daniela Silivas, 2023 WAS Legend in Artistic gymnastics



WAS 2007 Legend Nancy Thurston Huggins with WAS 2023 Trampoline/Tumbling Legend Tracy Kontur-Richter



Hideo Mizoguchi accepting for Masayuki Watanabe 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award



WAS 2023 Diving Legend, David Boudia



WAS 2023 Action Sports Legend, Ryan Doyle with WAS Board member John Deary



WAS Vice President and 2013 Legend Pedro Reis, with The Flying Españas, who are the WAS 2023 Legends in Professional Acrobatics

2022 Hall of Fame Inductees, Family & Friends!



Enjoy MORE PHOTOS on the World Acrobatics Society Facebook group page and on our website.

Photos by Lisa Cawthron, Rich Kenney and courtesy of WAS members.



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.

"Bobsleds & Togas

Fredi Chy is a fun guy as well as a great prankster ... although the latter trait has landed him in hot water one too many times.

Fredi Chy and his wife Edith perform in the act "Chy Fu Day," and I've known them for over 45 years, performing alongside them in many of the great European venues. In 2022, they were inducted as Professional Acrobatics Legends into the WAS Hall of Fame.

Anywaayz...

As I said earlier, Fredi is a fun guy and I've been fortunate to be his sidekick for several of his adventures. Whenever we got together, we couldn't help feeding off each other's *eh-eh-hem*, 'creativity.' Like the time Fredi and Edith happened to be performing in a show in Switzerland and I joined them for a visit.

One day while out and about, we came across a bobsled track that was closed ...but unguarded, and easily accessible by two curious show-offs like us. Less accessible, however, was a bobsled. There simply were none in sight.

But being highly resourceful lads, we weren't hindered by such a small impediment. Instead, we managed to 'requisition' a nearby child's snow sled which we (foolishly) decided was a perfectly acceptable alternative for a real bobsled.

So off we went, flying down a professional bobsled track, riding a little kid's snow sled - - tandem, no less. What could go wrong?

Well, apparently a lot.

Picking up speed, we leaned hard into every curve, laughing all the way. What fun! Until, with just a tad too much velocity we reached a really sharp bend in the track. At this point, centrifugal force took over, and we went airborne.

Really high...

Really fast...

To our great fortune, a large tree stood close to where we had 'dismounted' from the bobsled track - - and that is exactly where we landed - - up in a tree - - still laughing our heads off.

They say that God protects drunks and fools. Well, since we weren't drunk (really!), I guess that puts us in the second category.

Thank goodness Fredi and I, along with all our fellow pranksters, have mellowed in these, our 'wisdom years.' Nowadays we aim our 'creative talents' at less physical fun, such as sharing a beer, recounting our past escapades, and debating if we could actually qualify as WAS Action Sports Legends.



(Comedy Corner Continued)

And then we witnessed a "wardrobe malfunction"...

At the same Swiss show, a lovely, young aerialist was performing her solo trapeze act with her normal charm and to the great enjoyment of a full house. At the end of her act, she always gripped a rope that was fixed at a 45-degree angle and slid down to the ground - - with amazing elegance - - to the thunderous applause of her admiring public.

Only, on this occasion, her toga-like costume got tangled up and caught on her trapeze - - and it remained there - - while she slid gracefully down her rope nearly naked - - except for a tiny, high-cut tanga (an undergarment that is halfway between a woman's briefs and a G-string..... *um*, don't ask me how I know about these things).

Landing at the bottom of the rope, realizing she was minus her toga, she covered herself up as best she could and high-tailed it to the exit. But standing there blocking her way, was the ringmaster, grinning from ear to ear, his arms outstretched, and motioning for her to go back and take a bow.

Which she did.

For her courage, she received a standing ovation and the most applause of any act in the show.

...and of course, we agreed.



Fredi & Edith Chy and Bobby Dickson



World Acrobatics Society CALENDAR



December 1, 2023 / *NOMINATIONS* for Hall of Fame Class of 2024 **begin.**

January 1, 2024 / All *MEMBERSHIPS* for 2024 need to **renew.**

February 29, 2024 / *NOMINATIONS* for 2024 Hall of Fame **close.**

April 2024 / Hall of Fame Class of 2024 **announcement.**

May 1, 2024 / Registration **begins** for the WAS 2024 Congress & Hall of Fame Banquet

September 6-8, 2024 / World Acrobatics Society 2024 Congress & Hall of Fame Banquet.

In Memoriam



~ IN MEMORIAM ~

Glenn Wilson

World Acrobatics Society Hall of Fame
2010 Legend
Contributor - Trampoline/Tumbling



Glenn Griswold Wilson, passed away on August 19, 2023, at age 87. He was born on Dec. 23rd, 1935, in Fort Madison, Iowa, to parents Woodrow & Mae (Griswold) Wilson. He was the 1st born of 5 children. Sister Maylo (deceased), sister Sharon (deceased), sister Tracy (deceased), and brother Bruce who is currently living in San Marcos CA.

Glenn lived in Fort Madison, Iowa through High School where he graduated from the class of 1953. He then was accepted to Western Illinois University where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in physical education. While at Western Illinois University, he won the National AAU Trampoline Championships in 1958 and was honored by being inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1984. This is also where he met his first wife, Donna. They married in Illinois and had five children together - Kevin, Rand, Kirby, Brock, and Reed Wilson.

The gymnastics career that propelled Glenn's life was developed through his dedication to trampolining which he started at age 11. He also inherited his desire from his show business uncle Larry Griswold. Together they authored a book titled, "Trampoline Tumbling Today".

Glenn's first gymnastics coaching job began with the men's gymnastics team at San Francisco State University. Following this, he was hired to coach at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he earned his doctorate in education. After several successful years, he was recruited to coach at the University of Arizona. During his college coaching years, he earned his license to judge men's gymnastics competitions.

After many years coaching at the collegiate level, Glenn decided it was time to start his own gymnastics school. He moved to Tom's River, NJ, and opened several gymnastics schools in Manasquan, Point Pleasant, Silverton, and Wanamassa, NJ.

During his time in New Jersey, Glenn expanded his professional profile by being appointed to the position of meet director for the Dial American Cup in 1979 at Madison Square Garden, NY, where an international gymnastics competition was held. In the same year, he was hired to be part of the World Championships in Fort Worth, TX, where for three weeks he assisted in competition management. International experience included being part of the staff at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics where Glenn managed gymnasts safely transitioning from the training area to the competitive floor.

Being a spectator at the Olympiads was a thrilling part of Glenn's life. In 1968 Glenn traveled to Mexico City: in 1972, Glenn and Susan traveled to Munich: in 1996 Glenn and Susan traveled to Atlanta: in 2000 Glenn and Susan traveled to Australia.

In 1980 Glenn remarried and was wed to Susan (Clancy) Wilson. They moved to sunny San Diego, where they opened gymnastics schools in San Marcos, Rancho Bernardo, and Poway. Over his 63-year successful career, Glenn coached thousands of boys and girls, helping them meet their recreational and competitive goals. Many qualified to compete in national and world events. Among those athletes were his own children Rand (World Championships) and Brock (National Collegiate Championships). Glenn was age 80 when he finally retired.

Overall, he helped many women and men become outstanding coaches who now have gyms of their own and continue his legacy to teach the love of gymnastics. With his joyful personality and tenacity, he made the gymnastics community a better place. For his dedication to the sport of gymnastics, he was honored by the World Acrobatics Society and inducted into its Hall of Fame in 2010. The NJGA (New Jersey Gymnastics Association) inducted him into its Hall of Fame in 2017.

He was an avid golfer and loved his ice cream and news stations. He has 10 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren with 1 on the way.

Written with love,
Susan Wilson