

TEXAS PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

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PRESS RELEASE

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PATRICK J. RYAN, SR. 2006 DISTINGUISHED PHILATELIC TEXAN

by Jane King Fohn

The 2006 Distinguished Philatelic Texan honor was presented to Patrick J. Ryan, Sr. at the TEXPEX awards banquet held April 8th in Dallas. This is the highest award that the Texas Philatelic Association (TPA) can present to a member. It recognizes TPA members who have made outstanding contributions to philately.

Distinguished Philatelic Texans have to be TPA members in good standing. They must qualify in two of the following categories: service to TPA, contributions to the science of philately, contributions to Texas postal history, service to organized philately, service for philatelic exhibitions, and recognition by other philatelic organizations.

Patrick Ryan began collecting stamps worldwide at the age of seven. His next door neighbor, a first-day cover collector, had a foreign stamp collection that he found fascinating.

By the time Pat became a teenager he had started to specialize in United States and, unlike his contemporaries, continued collecting throughout high school and college years.

His first venture into organized philately in 1970 occurred when he joined the American Philatelic Society (APS). Later, in 1975, when his interest shifted to Ireland, he joined the Éire Philatelic Association (ÉPA). However, Pat had never taken an active roll in any of these organizations until he retired from military service in 1983. At that time he wrote to the president

(more)

PATRICK J. RYAN, SR.
2006 DISTINGUISHED PHILATELIC TEXAN
Page 2

of the ÉPA and asked him for a job. He was appointed to the Audit Committee and tasked to audit the financial records of the organization due to a change in treasurers.

In 1985 and 1986, Pat was active in forming the Lone Star Chapter of the ÉPA in Texas. This chapter meets in San Antonio each month to this day. In 1988 he joined the San Antonio Philatelic Association (SAPA). He held the position of treasurer for three years and was instrumental in obtaining its non-profit status.

Pat worked on the Texas Philatelic Association's TEXPEX '91 and '96 shows, that were held in San Antonio. He performed administrative tasks for both of these shows, handling the majority of correspondence. He held the position of co-chairman of the 1991 show, that held the APS record for the largest number of frames exhibited at a World Series of Philately show at that time—421.

In 1997 Pat was elected to serve as 1st vice president of the TPA. He has been a member since 1988. During his term of office he was asked to take over the organization's Slide Program. He investigated various ways of improving this program to no avail. The board finally decided that it would be in the best interest of the TPA to get rid of the program altogether. Accordingly, Pat suggested that it be transferred to the APS in order to make these programs available to more collectors. Upon board approval he effected the transfer. He also served TPA as auction chairman and membership chairman.

Pat is currently a Life member of TPA, APS, SAPA, and ÉPA. He is also a member of the APS Writer's Unit #30, and the Austin-Texas Stamp Club.

In 1985 he was appointed editor of *The Revealer*, the quarterly journal of the ÉPA. In 1988 he received the John J. Clark Award for exceptional service to the ÉPA. In 1997 he was awarded the Vincent A. Linnell Award for the best article of the year, "Irish Maritime Covers," which appeared in *The Revealer* that year. In 2000, he was selected to receive The Thomas

(more)

PATRICK J. RYAN, SR.
2006 DISTINGUISHED PHILATELIC TEXAN
Page 3

Edwin Field Memorial Award for his contributions to Irish Philately – the highest award the ÉPA can bestow on a member.

Pat has written articles for *The Texas Philatelist*. He won the 2001 Forcheimer Philatelic Literature Award for the best original article published in the *Philatelist* that year.

He has exhibited a variety of Irish materials in both Houston and Austin with the highest award being a silver medal. He has also exhibited *The Revealer* in many literature competitions both nationally and internationally with the highest award being a vermeil medal.

Patrick Ryan joins twenty-nine Distinguished Philatelic Texans, the first one was selected in 1974. Living Distinguished Philatelic Texans are Edwin F. Christman, Jr. (1978); Warren H. Crain (1980); Nonie Green (1983); Lee C. Scamp (1986); William K. McDaniel (1991); James W. Bowman (1992); Rex H. Stever (1993). Also, Jane King Fohn (1997), Romaine Flanagan (1998), Jay B. Stotts (1999), Barbara Stever (2000), Gordon Bleuler (2001), Lyle Boardman (2002), Robert J. Joyce (2003), Denise Stotts (2004), and Charles Deaton (2005).