

## **Service to Youth**

1999 - June Blackman-Kutz, GymKin Representative and Pro Shop Consultant for Elite Sportswear

1999 - Jodie Trncak; Gymnaestrada Sweden 1999, Her influence is now world-wide. GAT salutes you Mrs. Jodie Trncak.

1999 - Janet Kalat is the National Women's Director of the Sokol gymnastic organization.

1999 - Chuck Kalat; Men's Assistant Sokol Dir. for TX / American Sokol National assistant Director

## **Distinguished Service**

1999 - Rome Milan , Ft Worth, Texas . GAT President, 1997-98.

1999 - Marsha Hjort, Arlington ; Marsha is a former President of AGA

1999 - Jim McKinney, Abilene ; Jim has been a gymnastics coach for 30 years, NGJA and TGJA judge - president

1999 - Jim Jarrett, Austin ; . Few people in America can equal Jim as a facilities manager for major gymnastics championships.

1999 - Bob Sanderson, Abilene; 23 years coaching, serves as advisory Board Member of GAT & helped with the new By-laws.

## **THE HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD**

1999 - Gil Elsass, Austin : Gil started his gymnastics career on a fluke. He needed a PE credit at UT, couldn't get into swimming, so he had to take gymnastics. Well, he liked it, tried out for the team the next semester and made it. The rest is history. After graduating from UT with a BS in Physical Education, Gil and his brother Art persuaded the Crenshaws to retire and sell their gym to them. Bill and Bea Crenshaws had established their gym in 1949, the oldest private gymnastics club in America . Much to their surprise, Bill said yes and the job of filling the shoes of Bill and Bea began. Gil and Art ran gymnastics classes, team, swimming classes and created a bussed-in program of gymnastics for the surrounding child care facilities. Then they built a new facility and added a club for adult members with a weight room, running track, water aerobic classes, after school care programs, and a pre-school program called Palaestra. Crenshaw Gymnastics became the first truly "mega-gym in Austin . Gil's accomplishments include serving as State USGF Men's director and USAG Men's Regional Director, a position held for ten years. He hosted the Junior Olympics National Championships 1992 and numerous state and regional championships for both men and women. He was presented with a 25 year service award at the USAG Congress and was instrumental in establishing the Sims Scholarship. His quiet inspirational leadership, his organization skills, his structuring of an outstanding training program for men and women all work together to make Gil a fitting recipient for this Life Member award.