



John Paul Bresnan

John Paul Bresnan was born Jan. 9, 1940 & went Iris High School in Birmingham AL where he played football. After high school on went to school to become a master electrician by trade and did so for fifty years. He married Bobbie Jean Goneke and they had two children, Charlotte and John. Paul sang all the time at work and at home and made up his own songs as he went. In 1972 he attended square dance lessons and this is where it all began. He became a caller and framed the first \$5 he made as a caller and it still hangs in his office today. He and his wife, Bobbie, started their first club "The Dixie Chain Gang" in 1974. They were involved in many other clubs such as the Allemande Club, Town and Country, Shelby Shufflers, Gasden Whirlaways, Magic city Turners, Woodstackers, JP Plus, T-Squares, Campers & Dancers and others.

Jon was a sight caller and studied and took as many classes as possible. He attended a callers college for three years straight. John held many offices within the square dance community such as Alabama Callers Association (89-96) Jubilee advisory (79) BSDA Advisory Committee (81-88) President Birmingham Callers Association (77) Sound committee for the National Convention in Birmingham. John taught many, many, lessons with thousands of hours of fun and friendships. He would help anyone interested in calling any

time, like Roy Kirkland and Barry Echols who have called for years. John was very proud of the Birmingham Square Dance Hall, where he put in many volunteer hours wiring the building and worked to make sure the building was successful. John loved to call but also loved to listen to others call to help him but also just to enjoy others calling.

John called for 28 years and was married to his wife Bobbie for 51 years. It was with great sorrow he called his last dance in 2010. He lost his life to dementia on Jan. 16th, 2011 but he is now squaring them up with his Heavenly Father.

It just seemed fitting somehow that this first ever “Hall of Fame Award” be presented to John Paul Bresnan, Jr., posthumously because for many, many years, John Paul WAS square dancing.

No matter what was asked of him, he was always readily available to help in any way possible. He helped wire the BSDA Hall and spent numerous hours working on the BSDA building and the Purser-Ray Hall in Odenville.

He has taught many, many people to square dance. Not only did he teach them to square dance, he taught them to LOVE square dancing. He made it fun. There are numerous dancers today that were taught by John Paul.

John Paul mentored many new callers. He loved being a square dance caller, and wanted to pass that love on to the new callers.

He was always available to do exhibitions or whatever it took to promote square dancing. He worked tirelessly behind the scenes at many of the past Jubilees and at the 1985& 1995 National Conventions. If anyone embodied the spirit and dedication to square dancing it was John Paul Bresnan. He attended every caller’s school and seminar he could get to. He never stopped trying to learn more about calling. He truly loved calling and dancing and every dancer he met.

A very short history of John Paul:

Started learning to dance in 1971/1972.

Joined the BSDA when he graduated from lessons.

Started learning to call while in lessons.

Jubilee Chairman in 1973.

Served as Alabama Jubilee Program Chairman numerous times.

Served as ASARDA Convention Program Chairman numerous times.

Formed the „Dixie Chain Gang“ in 1974.

Started calling for the Allemande Club in 1979.

Formed 8 square dance clubs that we can remember, but there were more.

Attended two callers colleges.

Held the office of President of the State Callers Association many times.

Held the office of Vice President of the State Callers Association many times.

Held the office of President of the Birmingham Callers Association many times.

Held the office of Vice President of the Birmingham Callers Association many times.

Was presented the Key to the City of Tuscaloosa from Mayor Alvin P DuPont for his involvement with the State Convention.

Chaired Sound for Nationals in 1985 and 1995.

Served two years on the Site Selection committee to help find a place to build the BSDA Hall.

Donated his time to supervise and help install the electrical wiring in the BSDA Hall. He arranged to get most of the supplies at cost through the company he worked for.

Served on the BSDA Building Committee numerous times.

Was always willing to serve on any Committee.

Called numerous exhibitions for clubs and organizations to support/advertise square dancing.

Supported the following organizations by being a member: BSDA, ASARDA, BASARDCA, ASDCA, and CALLERLAB.

CALLERLAB – International Callers Association. Served on the Mainstream and Plus Committees that formed the list that is used today in Square Dance Calling.

Over the years conducted weekly schools to help new callers get started in square dance calling. He would teach the basics and help the new callers with any questions that they may have.