

**John F. "Pump" McLaughlin YMCA Award for
Spirit and Enthusiasm
Presented annually at the YMCA West District
Swimming Championships**

2004 Josh Barthlow Butler YMCA	2010 Seth Dippold Ridgeway YMCA
2005 Heidi Halfhill Laurel Highlands YMCA	2011 Kevin Crooks Mon Valley YMCA
2006 Emily Zalewinski New Kensington YMCA & Danielle Watson Indiana YMCA	2012 Alyssa Dombrosky Greensburg YMCA
2007 Laura Mincemoyer Bellefonte YMCA	2013 Sean Murphy New Castle YMCA
2008 DeAnn Pertz Titusville YMCA	
2009 Laura Gorinski Greensburg YMCA	

John F. "Pump" McLaughlin
October 8, 1939 – March 28, 2004

During Pump's career with the Butler YMCA, he emulated all the admirable qualities that the YMCA stands for: Honesty, Respect, Caring and Responsibility. Pump touched the lives of so many through his own unique way of teaching swimming and developing character. Pump captured the hearts of thousands who benefited from his commitment to higher values. In all his efforts, Pump embraced the spirit, mind and body of the YMCA triangle and the full development of an individual's potential. He began working for the Butler YMCA in 1954 and served as the Aquatic Director for 45 years, focusing his efforts as a swimming instructor and competitive swimming coach. Pump was a teacher, coach, mentor and friend.

As a teacher, he is credited with teaching over 50,000 individuals to swim. Children were never afraid of Pump. As a coach, Pump was known throughout the National YMCA Competitive Swimming World for his ability to create district, state and national swimming championships. He coached thousands. He coached each swimmer as an individual. With a gentle leadership style and a comforting voice, he instilled in each swimmer the importance of winning graciously and losing with confidence of knowing that you had done your best. He earned the respect of his former swimmers, many of whom have become successful coaches, teachers, and community leaders in their own right. They frequently mention integrity, discipline and determination as qualities that were instilled by Pump.

As a mentor, Pump taught and lived by example, he was a follower of the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." Pump led others by example never having a bad thing to say about anyone and always finding the good in everyone and their individual efforts. He was someone you looked up to; someone you wanted to be like; someone you trusted; someone who would take the time you needed; someone who would guide you along the path of life.

Pump was a friend to everyone he met. A generous man in every respect. He smiled at everyone and respected each person as an individual. No child ever passed Pump, anywhere, without Pump stopping to say "Hello". Without fanfare or want for recognition, Pump purchased YMCA memberships for hundreds of youth who otherwise would never have been able to participate. Pump lived every day to its fullest, right up to his last day. Living a very unselfish life, he gave much more of himself than he received in return and he never expected anything in return.

Pump McLaughlin Memorial Award for Spirit and Enthusiasm

This award recognizes a YMCA Western PA District senior-division swimmer who best epitomizes the spirit and enthusiasm that Pump spent his coaching career teaching. The award is presented annually during the Senior Division competition at the Western PA YMCA District Championships meet each March.

The award is open to any senior division swimmer (ages 15-18) in the YMCA Western Pennsylvania District. Although the award is presented at the District Championship meet, the winner does not necessarily have to be a Districts qualifier.

Each team may nominate one senior division swimmer for the award. The nominee's coach submits the required information as communicated by the Western PA District Championship host team.

Voting takes place following the Junior Division scratch meeting at the District Championship Meet. Each team may vote for one swimmer from any other team (i.e. A team may NOT vote for the nominee from its team). A coach from each team submits the ballot which is provided in their team's meet coach packet.

A plaque with all past awardees is on display at the Butler YMCA.