



MICHAEL LORUSSO
1945 - 2006

On May 18, 2006 TableTennis and the world lost a beloved member of our society, Michael (Mike) LoRusso. He joined our ranks in the 1970's and had been a devoted, solid, and hard working member since the beginning of his time with us and up until his recent illness. He founded the American Wheelchair Table Tennis Association (AWTTA) along with Ed Morrison and Tyler Kaus. He was a member of the AWTTA Board of Directors, Tri-State, Wheelchair Athletic Association, USA Table Tennis Disabled Players Committee, National Wheelchair Athletic Association Board of Directors now Wheelchair Sports USA and United Spinal Association. In all of these organizations he acted in various capacities such as Chairman and Treasurer. He was a member of numerous National, Pan American, World Championships and Paralympic Table Tennis Teams, as well as a multi time medal winner. He also organized and managed many international wheelchair table tennis teams while being a player himself. He was the first person to introduce wheelchair table tennis to New Jersey in 1974. He was well known for his work with disabled children as well as motivational speaker to newly disabled persons. In addition to his love of athletics, he was a member of a theatre company in Manhattan where he enjoyed all aspects of performance arts. He had a great appreciation for American actors, film and theatre. He retired from AT&T where he was an Electrical Engineer. In addition to leaving behind his teammates, family and friends, he is survived by his beloved wife, Lena. She was very devoted to him for all of their short time together and was the love of his life. His passing has left us all with a great sense of loss. May he rest in peace.

Because of Mike's love, dedication and passion for wheelchair table tennis the family requests that in lieu of flowers donations be sent to the American Wheelchair Table Tennis Association (AWTTA), payable to AWTTA, Attention: Marty Young, 5 Roland Drive, White Plains, NY 10605.

Submitted by Jackie DiLorenzo & Jennifer Johnson

