

## Bob Flanigan Honored by SPEBSQSA

by Michael McCoy, FFS Wisconsin Rep

Bob Flanigan was honored in person last week at the international convention in Portland, Oregon, held by the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA).

Here's a report I just received from Reed Sampson, SPEBSQSA public relations manager with headquarters in Kenosha, Wisconsin, about the presentation:

"Bob and Mary arrived in Portland Wednesday morning. The Honorary Life Membership was presented Saturday night, prior to the start of the quartet contest finals.

"The presentation included some Four Freshmen music (Day By Day) and a PowerPoint show that traced some of the Four Freshmen history. The introduction was read by Society President, Roger Lewis. The introduction included comments from Jim Clancy, a friend of Bob for more than three decades, who is the director of the nine-time champion chorus *Vocal Majority* of Dallas, Texas. Bob was greeted with a wonderful ovation from the audience.

"The actual Honorary Life Membership plaque was presented to Bob center stage by Society Executive Director Darryl Flinn (who read the certificate to Bob and the nearly 30,000 people in the audience).

"Bob then thanked the Society for the honor and told the audience how pleased he is that the Four Freshmen's music is still being sung by groups. That was the cue for one of our past international champion quartets, Acoustix, to sing 'Graduation Day.' Then, to the absolute delight of the audience, Bob joined Acoustix to sing 'Blue World.' The performance was given a standing ovation.

"I met the Flanigans at the Portland airport for the limo ride to our headquarters hotel, downtown. A limo was also provided to take them to the airport Sunday morning. While in Portland, the Flanigans had dinner with Jim and Judy Clancy Wednesday evening and they attended our Association of International Champions (AIC) show Thursday evening. They had front-row seats for all the events they attended. We also had a driver assigned to them for their entire stay.

"We will have photos and a story in the next issue of our magazine, The Harmonizer."

As a longtime FF fan and member of both the FF Society and SPEBSQSA, I really regret that I was not able to be present at this event because it sounds like it was a lot of fun for all concerned. And Bob certainly deserves the recognition. I'm pleased for him, and am so glad another passion of mine - barbershop music - has chosen to recognize him for his contributions.

If you also are a member of SPEBSQSA, please keep an eye out for the next edition of The Harmonizer. I always do anyway, but this edition will have a special added attraction for me.



Tall and Terrific!

### Postscript by Mary Flanigan

This was a great honor for Bob and myself. It is like an FFS Convention, where everywhere you walked around hotels, outside in an open air theatre you'd see groups singing "Barber Shop." We watched the finals for 2002, won by *Four Voices*, second place *Uptown Sound*, third place *Power Play*. The Rose Garden Arena held all the Finals. On July 6th, Bob was bestowed an Honorary Life Membership by SPEBSQSA. The plaque, presented by Dick Shaw of SPEBSQSA.

After receiving the plaque Bob sang with **Acoustix** from Dallas "It's A Blue World."

The finale was a combined vocal chorus of past singers and new singers conducted by Jim Clancey in *United We Sing*.

Bob and I were privileged to be in attendance for this wonderful songfest.