

Introduction:

In the fall of 2013 we received an inquiry about what USDA does for square dancers that have reached the age of 100. Most of us did not know we had dancers of that age, so we did not have a program to recognize them.

A little research revealed some interesting facts about this age group. Currently it is the fastest growing population in the United States. The 2010 US Census reports over 53,000 people living in the United States are age 100 and above. With the current medical advances, improved diets, and changes in lifestyle this number is expected to reach a record high by mid-century. Not only are we living longer today than ever before, we are remaining more physically and mentally productive in our later years.

At the winter meeting of USDA in January 2014, a proposal was introduced and approved to begin a program of special recognition to those individuals that had reached the age of 100 and had been an active member for a minimum of five years.

Purpose:

As the world's largest square dance association, the Executive Committee of USDA is proud to provide a "Centennial Awards" program for this group of dancers.

The qualified recipients will be given a nice framed "Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation" signed by the President of USDA and the Vice President of their Region. They will also receive a "United Square Dancers of America Centennial Award" lapel pin. This award will be presented to them by a member of the Executive Committee at a dance attended by the recipient when possible. Should the recipient be able to attend the USDA Board of Directors meeting the day prior to the National Convention, USDA will pay their Convention Registration.

Finally, our USDA NEWS will honor them in a special "Feature Article" about them. When available we also include pictures of their receiving their awards from the USDA representative.

Qualifications:

USDA recently revised the requirements to earn the Centennial Award. Reaching the age of 100 is our number one qualification and it is the most difficult and it does not get any easier when you get there. The Centennial Award Program was created to reward and honor those dancers that had reached the age of 100, not to add additional stress for them.

Covid-19 had a direct impact on square dancing in general, and especially on our dancers approaching the 100 year mark. Clubs were closing and many did not return. As club began dancing again the older dancers were reluctant to attend for fear of catching the disease. We still hope and expect they will continue as they can, but we have removed the requirement of being an "active" member.

The other requirement of having at least a minimum of five years membership in your club still remains.

Once you have qualified for the Centennial Award, you must notify USDA by completing the form on the back of this page.

Qualification Form

**I have met the requirements
and I do qualify for the
USDA CENTENNIAL AWARDS.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Home

_____ Cell

E-Mail : _____

Age: _____ Date of Birth _____

Number of years dancing: _____

Club Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Club President: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP _____

Club Caller: _____

**Mail this form to:
Ed & Lynda Willis
P.O. Box 7524
Wilmington, NC 28406-7524**

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DANCERS OF AMERICA**

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Square Dance!

**THE ONLY NATIONAL
DANCER'S ASSOCIATION
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USDA CENTENNIAL

AWARD PROGRAM



IS-024

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