

MINNESOTA TRAPSHOOTING ASSOCIATION 2015 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

RICHARD 'DICK' THOMPSON

Dick Thompson was born and raised in Glenwood, Minnesota. As a young man, Dick was a fishing guide on Lake Minnewaska and, as an adult, worked and retired as an agent for Soo Line Railroad in Glenwood. Dick started shooting in 1960; it became Dick's passion that lasted until the day he died in 1997.

Going to the Grand American at Vandalia, Ohio, was the highlight of Dick's year. In his early years of attending the Grand American Dick would win enough money playing the Options to pay for all of his shooting at the Grand. Some accomplishments he achieved included winning the 1979 MN Handicap Championship (98x100) and the 1994 MN Vet Singles Championship (197x200). He and his wife, Phyllis, never had any children, and they traveled around the state and beyond to different clubs and registered shoots until she took ill and passed away.



Dick was one of the greatest ambassadors of the sport of trapshooting. He had a warm welcome for everyone attending the club and would always greet a new shooter and assist them in learning the sport. Although difficult to determine an actual number, those who knew Dick stated that he recruited countless individuals to join the ATA. There were many years Glenwood Gun Club did not have money in the account to open the club or pay the insurance. Dick would pay that out of his own pocket, and reimburse himself after the club was back in the black. He left the club \$10,000 upon his death which allowed the club to update to automatic traps. Without his dedication and love of the sport, the Glenwood Gun Club would probably not have survived. One of Dick's desires was to see the Minnesota State Shoot come to Alexandria. Unfortunately, he didn't live long enough to see that change occur as he died three years before its move. Dick would also have been ecstatic with the direction the Minnesota Clay Target League has gone as he had great enthusiasm for youth shooting.

Dick's greatest strength was his patience and caring for others, and his effort in recruiting new shooters to the sport. There were none greater in representing the sport of trapshooting. Ask any elder shooter that knew him to use one word to describe Dick, and that word would be "gentleman".

Written by Cindy & Tom Townsend and John & Jennie Stone