

### Former President **Dave Brown Honored**



**Dave Brown at a banquet held for him in January.**

Roughly 100 people attended a banquet January 26, 2008, at the Horizon Convention Center in Muncie, Indiana, in tribute to Dave Brown, who served as AMA's 22<sup>nd</sup> president, from 1996 through 2007. He was accompanied by his wife, Sally; his daughter, Connie; her husband, Tim Gleason; his son, Dave; his wife, Suzanne; and five grandchildren.

Dave has served in Academy leadership positions, as executive vice president, vice president, and finally president, for 28 years. Bob Underwood, who emceed the banquet, did the math and determined that that equals attending approximately 110 Executive Council meetings, going through 1,000 Executive Council meeting motions and votes, and writing 330 magazine columns.

Notable attendees at the dinner included AMA Executive Director Jim Cherry, Finbar and Anne Constant, Dave's good friends who traveled from Ireland to take part in the festivities; National Aeronautic Association (NAA) President Jonathan Gaffney; Anita Storey, ninth AMA president Keith Storey's wife; and Maynard Hill, who was AMA's 10<sup>th</sup> president.

At the front of the room was a table with a place setting and a candle burning in honor of modelers who could not attend. There was no head table at the gathering because it was meant to be a "family affair," and the presentation was complemented by a slide show, by Mark Lanterman, featuring Dave at various stages of his life.

Joyce Hager, AMA's staff director, read a letter from former AMA president Don Lowe, who was unable to attend the banquet. According to



**Bob Underwood presents the first HOPE Award to Dave Brown's wife Sally.**

an excerpt from that letter, "[Dave Brown has] made an important contribution, and this hobby is better for [his] service."

"I have great admiration for Dave," said Joyce. "He was a great mentor."

Dave started modeling at age 7. Among his projects in his younger years was constructing a scale XP-35 aircraft with friends and covering it with foil from Marlboro cigarette packs. Dave's other interests have included midget car racing and playing the banjo.

He was honorably discharged from the Army in 1970, immediately after which he went to work for World Engines in Ohio as a toolmaker. In 1979 he started his own company—Dave Brown Products—which he and Sally still own and run.

In 1985 Dave Brown Products introduced the first RC flight simulator. The company continued to grow with the introduction of wheels, aluminum spinners, and other accessory items.

Dave's competitive modeling career, which began in the 1950s, has included participation in such categories as CL Aerobatics, CL Scale, CL Speed, and RC Aerobatics (Pattern). He participated in such Pattern contests as the Badenwurttemberg State Championships, AMA Nats, Tournament of Champions, and FAI World Championships.

Dave wasn't the only Brown honored at the banquet; Bob Underwood presented Sally with AMA's first HOPE [Hall of Partners Extraordinaire] Award, which honors those who support their partners in their aeromodeling endeavors.

"At least one half of Dave is Sally," said Bob. According to him she has acted as nurse, pit crew, wife, business partner, mother, and children's advocate, and has served in numerous other roles.

"It's been quite a ride," she said.

Although Dave will no longer be AMA president, he will represent the Academy in various capacities with the FAI executive committee, the NAA, and CIAM (the FAI Aeromodeling Commission).

"We look forward to working together for many years to come," said newly elected AMA President Dave Mathewson.

The evening concluded with toasts given by Bob Underwood and Finbar Constant.

"Keep on flying," said Dave. **MA**

—AMA Staff



**Finbar Constant, former Ireland Aero Club president, toasts the outgoing president with an Irish toast of "Sláinte!" (pronounced "slawn-cha"), which means "health."**