

## "Best of Them All"

**Terry Robinson**

Grimek was the best of them all. Our generation was a fortunate one to have had a man, a leader, a great weight lifting star like John Grimek. I delivered a eulogy to John on November 22 at a big show in Los Angeles, put on by Mike Glass. There were over 200 people in the audience, including Joe Weider, Bob Delmontique, Jack LaLanne, Al Berger, Frank Zane, Dave Draper, Carlin Venus, John Balik & many others. As I spoke, tears welled up in the eyes of everyone present, and in my own. That morning, I had spoken to John's wife, Angela, who was at her daughter Patricia's home in York.

On October 17th only a few weeks earlier, we were all together in New York City for the annual dinner of the Oldetime Barbell and Strongmen Association. As always, John sat at our head table and posed

for photographs and gave his autograph. I turned to Jules Bacon and said, "Gee, I wish they'd leave John alone so he could eat." Jules smiled and said, "This happens wherever we go." And then I thought that that was the price a man pays for fame and John was a world famous man. Yes, world famous.

Whenever John came to visit me in Los Angeles (he usually came together with Dr. Charles Moss and Moss' wife, Marge), Angela always told me that John liked to come to my club because he saw a lot of movie and TV stars. But while it's true that we had a lot of show people, the real truth is the stars wanted to meet John Grimek. He was their idol just as he's the idol of everyone in the Iron Game. And happy they were when they met John. I remember Pat Boone and John Ritter telling me how thrilled they were, and actors Norman Fell and Henry Silvia telling me, "That guy's a legend."

John Grimek helped more people in the world to a better physical life than anyone I ever knew. When Mario Lanza needed weights for his home, it was John he contacted, even when Lanza was in Italy. Lanza himself was honored to meet John, and I was honored to be near him in the 1940 and 1941 Mr. America contests. *(Editors' note: Terry was on the stage with John as a competitor. See Joe Roark's article on page 26 for details.)* We all knew Grimek would win. He was the best and he was also our idol.

The Bible preaches a life based on life not death, and John will rest now, but never die.



ONE OF THE LAST PHOTOS OF JOHN GRIMEK EVER TAKEN WAS SNAPPED BY IRON MIKE D'ANGELO THE MORNING AFTER THE 1998 OLDETIME BARBELL AND STRONGMEN ASSOCIATION DINNER. FROM THE LEFT: JERRY APPEL, TERRY ROBINSON, VIC BOFF AND JOHN GRIMEK.