

# The Daily Herald.

## CMA grad to receive Schenkel Award

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A Columbia Military Academy graduate has received a prestigious national sportscasting honor as Larry Zimmer, a member of the 1953 graduation class at CMA, received the 2009 Schenkel Award this month.

Zimmer, the voice of University of Colorado football since 1971, became the 15th person to be honored with this broadcasting award named for Chris Schenkel.

Schenkel was a long-time play-by-play man for ABC Sports, who was known for his commitment to excellence in broadcasting. The award is based on length of service and a recipient must have direct ties to colleges and universities and not strictly national broadcasters.

Among the previous winners is Larry Munson (2004), the voice of the Georgia Bulldogs who has his start with WSM in Nashville as the play-by-play announcer for Vanderbilt and the Nashville Vols.

"Larry Zimmer is always the professional, always prepared, always very happy about what he was doing and with that distinctive voice you just knew it was Colorado football," said NFF president and CEO Steve Hatchell in a press release from the University of Colorado. "What a wonderful combination that ranks with the greatest in college football history."

For Zimmer the honor is very special as he was a friend of Schenkel and had shared time with him in the booth.

"The fact that I knew Chris and that this award is named for him is special as well," Zimmer said. "I first worked with him when he was doing New York (football) Giant games and I worked with him as a spotter when they came in and played the Cardinals."

The honor for Zimmer comes after he broadcast 1,000 football and basketball games for the Buffaloes.

"It is certainly the highlight of my career because it recognizes two of the things that I love the most, and that's broadcasting college football and my association with the University of Colorado through the years and all the people I've met," Zimmer said.

Just a few days before Zimmer was notified of his selection to the Schenkel Award, he was informed that he would be inducted into the Broadcast Professionals of Colorado Hall of Fame on Oct. 2.

Zimmer, 73, started his sports broadcasting career in high school football and basketball games in Missouri and Oklahoma while also doing play-by-play for the Missouri Tigers baseball team.

The following year, he moved to Michigan and began broadcasting Wolverine football and basketball teams.

Zimmer then moved on to radio station KOA in Denver doing play-by-play for Colorado and color commentary for the Denver Broncos. In 1990 Zimmer became the play-by-play man for the Broncos.

He also was the voice of the Denver Rockets of the American Basketball Association and the Colorado Caribous of the North American Soccer League.

Following his graduation from CMA, Zimmer attended Louisiana State University before transferring to the University of Missouri, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1957.

Zimmer served two years on active duty in the United States Army, earning the rank of 1st Lieutenant and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal.

A five-time winner the Colorado Sportscaster of the Year Award, Zimmer works as an adjunct sports journalism professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Zimmer will accept the Schenkel award at the NFF Annual Awards Dinner on Dec. 8, at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City.