

AN AWARD FIT FOR AN ABBOT

Abbot Jerry Lewis has received countless accolades and honors over his many years as an entertainer and philanthropist. In



Abbot Jerry Lewis accepts his medal of honor



Friar Marvin Scott with Abbot Jerry Lewis

May he received an honor that brought him back to his roots when he received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor For Outstanding Americans. It was presented to him on the hallowed ground where 12 million immigrants found the gateway to freedom and opportunity. Master of Ceremonies, Friar Marvin Scott, introduced Jerry as an American treasure, an entertainment icon and philanthropist. Lewis expressed his gratitude to the National Ethnic Coalition of organizations for adding him to the exclusive roster of medalists, who include six U.S. Presidents, Nobel laureates, diplomats, athletes, religious and business leaders. This was the 25th anniversary of the awards.

Accompanied to the ceremonies by Executive Director Michael Gyure and Executive Director Emeritus Friar Jean Pierre Trebot, Lewis humored the audience when he attributed his staying power to the fact, as he put it, "I'm still nine and will never get



Abbot Jerry Lewis shares a laugh with Michael Gyure and Friar Jean Pierre Trebot

older." He said he treasures the trophies and honors he's received over the years, but nothing can compare to the greatest satisfaction and reward he's gotten in seeing the children he has helped through his Muscular Dystrophy telethons. The audience could feel the emotion when he declared, "No one gets the satisfaction like I get when a child says thank you for letting me live. Thank you for giving me my life."

JACK H. KLEIN

1918 ~ 1985