



Eric R. Murray

**Joint Winner (with Sami Kehela) of the 2001 Von Zedtwitz Award - ACBL Hall of Fame**

*The Von Zedtwitz Award is given to deserving living or deceased individuals who have contributed to the game of bridge either by virtue of their bridge playing talents, or who made contributions to the game outside of their area of playing expertise.*

Eric Murray was born in 1928. A barrister by profession, he lives in Toronto.

Murray's 30-year partnership with Sami Kehela is acknowledged as one of Canada's best ever.

Murray has represented North America in the Bermuda Bowl four times (1962, 66, 67 & 74), finishing second on all four occasions. For the first

of these, in 1962, the team's coach was one Sami Kehela. Representing Canada and playing with Kehela, Murray has twice finished third in the World Team Olympiad (1968 & 72). They also finished fourth in 1964. In 1970, they were fifth in the World Open Pairs. They collected bronze medals at the 1982 Rosenblum Teams, and finished fifth in the same event in 1978.

Murray has won 13 NABC titles including the Vanderbilt twice (1961 & 70), the Spingold three times (1964, 65 & 68), the Life Masters Pairs in 1969, the Men's Teams in 1962, the Life Masters Men's Pairs in 1963, the Men's Pairs twice (1945 & 55), the 1963 Mixed Pairs, and the Master Mixed Teams twice (1956 & 62). He also won the Canadian National Teams Championship three times (1980, 81 & 87), and placed second twice (1986 & 88). He won the Canadian Invitational Calcutta in 1993.

As a bridge administrator, Murray is a former president of Eastern Canadian BC and the Ontario Unit. He was also the organizing chairman of the Summer NABC in 1964.

When Murray came to the podium at the induction ceremonies during the July 2001 NABC in Toronto, he proved that his oratory skills were at least a match for those he frequently displayed at the bridge table, if that were possible. He offered some side-splitting comments on Kehela's lack of bridge ability, but he concentrated primarily on Larry Cohen, who had been the original bearer of the news of Murray's impending induction into the Hall. "He wrote a book about some kind of law," quipped Murray. "Somewhere it says you have to be aggressive at the 3-level whenever you hold 18 trumps. Must have been a typographical error; although Larry lives in Florida ♠ maybe he had something to do with the counting in that election down there."

Murray was one of the outstanding bridge players of his era. But his skills at the table pale when compared with his abilities as a stand-up comedian.