

# FSPMR Hall of Fame Introduction to Dr Mitch Freed

By Lorry Davis MEd, former FSPMR Executive Director

Dr Freed/Mitch, and I have known each other for most of my tenure with FSPMR, since the late 1980s. He was the first to suggest FSPMR put out a periodic newsletter of some sort. It was called **the PM&R Page** and it featured a graphic of a page blowing a bugle to spread the news. It was snailmailed and then later faxed to members. We are the old guard now, Mitch!

Dr Freed remained a loyal and current FSPMR member for most of his professional career, but he is the only member to have served two presidencies. At the time, there simply were no other candidates, and in good FSPMR conscience, Mitch agreed to take on a second term. Thank you, Dr Freed!

Dr Freed helped spearhead state and national political advocacy efforts assuring PM&R and related therapies were included in benefits. He flew to DC with other Florida PM&R leaders and met with senators and their staffs.

And it wasn't only politicians who had not heard of PM&R. Back in the day, we were still working to make others within medicine aware of physiatry. Podiatry? Psychiatry?

Under Dr Freed's leadership, FSPMR developed a PAC. We occasionally flew to Tallahassee or South Florida to deliver contributions for important FMA fundraisers. We learned we were a little bit in over our heads with the PAC and so we dissolved it.

Over the years with FSPMR, Mitch and I became friends and witnessed the other grow with family, relationships. I attended his daughter's Bat Mitzvah and his and Holly's wedding.

Dr Mitch Freed is a stellar example of an FSPMR Hall of Famer. It is steadfast members like Dr Freed who stay for the long haul, that give FSPMR its foundation.

These legacy awards are for those who have demonstrated sustained commitment and involvement.

Dr Freed has done all that and his are one set of the "shoulders on which FSPMR stands."

Congratulations, Dr Freed!