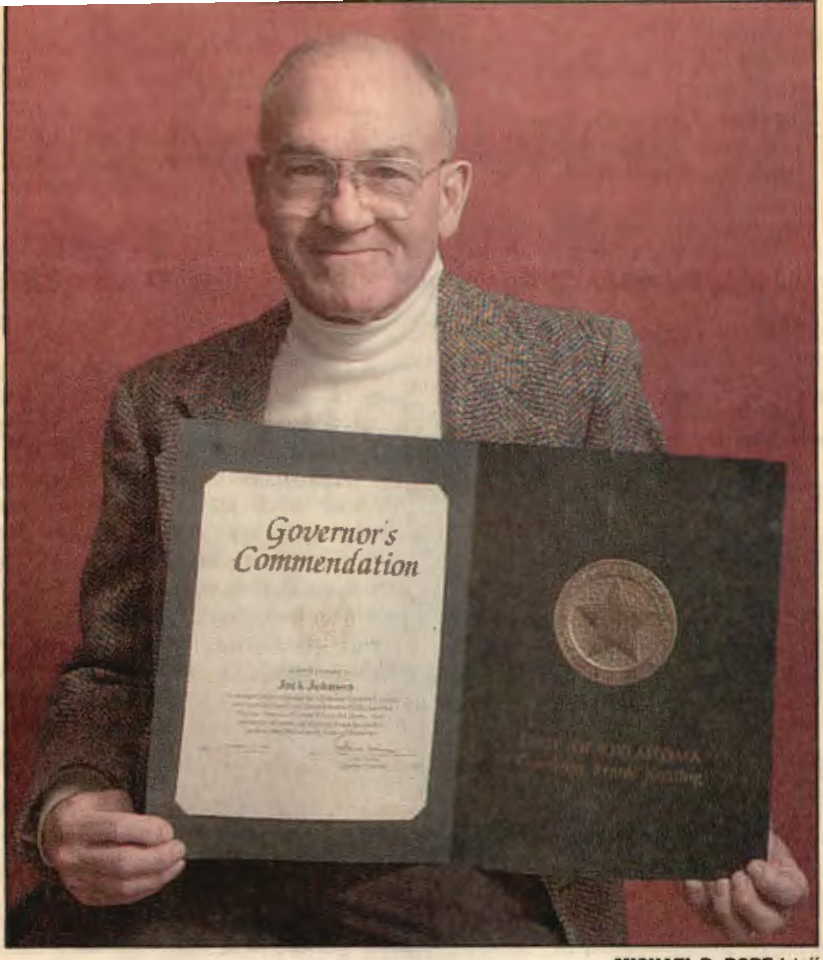

MICHAEL D. POPE/staff

Lawtonian Jack Johnson received the Governor's Distinguished Service Award in Physical Fitness and Sports last weekend in Oklahoma City.

Lawtonian garners governor's award

Lawtonian Jack Johnson received the Governor's Distinguished Service Award in Physical Fitness and Sports last weekend in Oklahoma City.

The honor was the highest honor presented during the Seventh Annual Governor's Conference on Physical Fitness and Sports. The female winner was Mitsy-Martin Davis of Midwest City.

The award is presented to one male and one female who have made contributions above the required efforts in promoting sports and physical fitness in the State of Oklahoma.

"I might have been the one receiving this award but a great many people helped earn this honor," Johnson said. "It takes a lot of people to make these events happen and I am just one of the many who have been involved. I've just tried to help with the organization of these events, but it's a joint effort."

Since his retirement from the Army, Johnson has been a tireless worker in implementing numerous community athletic events and competitions in the Lawton area.

He is currently the chairman of the Lawton Chamber of Commerce and Industry's sports promotions committee and has been a member of that panel for three years.

He has also assisted with the operation of many events including the following: Mt. Scott Turkey Trot, YMCA triathlon, Kiwanis Pepsi 10K Challenge race, St. Jude Children's Hospital Benefit bicycle ride, Mountain Metro Road Race-Run, Run-walk-ride for Sobriety, Tour of the Wichitas, 12 Miles of Hell, and numerous other events.

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Jack Johnson

Johnson is also a member of the Lawton Parkway Task Force that is developing a fitness/bicycle path in Lawton.

Johnson is also involved in competition. He began running in the 1980s and began cycling in 1989. He was twice president of the Wichita Mountains Bicycle Club. He was recognized by the American Bicyclists as the 1992 club volunteer of the year.

As a competitive cyclist he has represented Oklahoma in the Senior Olympics in 1995 at San Antonio and he has qualified for the 1997 Senior Olympics ion Tucson, Ariz.