

# Wrestling needs Barry



Photos by George Horsford / Daily Sun

Barry Burtnett, of Village La Zamora, shows off his America Needs Wrestling Award on Monday at his home. Burtnett was presented the award — given by the National Wrestling Coaches Association — by wrestling legend Dan Gable. Burtnett has been involved in the sport for nearly 60 years.

## Villager Burtnett receives prestigious award from wrestling legend Dan Gable

By **JIM CHEESMAN**  
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THE VILLAGES  
**B**arry Burtnett has won so many awards for his contributions to wrestling, his wife has told him he can't get any more.

"We're running out of wall space," Judy Burtnett said after Barry covered one of the last open spots in his office in their Village La Zamora home with his newest plaque.

If this, indeed, is his last — and it's probably not — it's certainly one of the biggest.

At the NCAA wrestling championships in March in Des Moines, Iowa, Burtnett was one of three people to receive the Dan Gable America Needs Wrestling Award,



Judy and Barry Burtnett show off his newest award.

presented by the National Wrestling Coaches Association, for his continued contributions to the sport.

Burtnett was presented his latest award by the man himself, Gable, the iconic wrestler and coach who is the

undisputed biggest name in the sport.

"Dan Gable was, and still is, a legend in the sport of wrestling, and I am extremely humbled to be a recipient of his award," Burtnett said. "This award is special because

of Dan Gable."

Burtnett has been involved in wrestling for almost 60 years as a competitor, coach and official at nearly every level in three states. He started the program at Rider University in Lawrenceville, N.J., in 1968 and coached the team for 10 seasons.

He has attended all but two of the NCAA Wrestling Championships since 1957.

### Wrestling and coaching

Burtnett's love affair with wrestling started in November 1954, when he was cut from the Bedford High School basketball team in Bedford, Pa., because he was too small.

"I started practicing with the wrestling team without