



NATIONAL GYM ASSOCIATION  
[nga@nationalgym.com](mailto:nga@nationalgym.com)  
1-954-344-8410

## **John Abraham**

### **NGA Hall of Fame – 2017**

Though this year marks the 38<sup>th</sup> year since the founding of the NGA, this is the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual NGA Hall of Fame tribute. Inductees must possess attributes that help shape the sport of natural bodybuilding and make exceptional contributions to further the growth, reputation, and character of the NGA and the sport we hold in such high esteem.

This year we are pleased to announce the 2017 NGA Hall of Fame inductee is John Abraham!

Though you can read it in the latest issue of NGA NATURAL mag, let me share with you who John is, why he was selected, and how he became an NGA Promoter.

John was born, raised and lives in Peoria, IL. He is a life time drug-free athlete and has competed in many different organizations from 1990 – 2007. In 1995, he was approached by a local gym owner and NGA Promoter Jerry Thomas to be a judge at his show. John had become acquainted with Jerry because of his success in competing in both drug tested and non-tested bodybuilding shows in the Midwest. John jumped at the opportunity to get involved and to judge the first NGA show in Peoria, IL. Together they created the name of the first show “The NGA Heart of America Natural Classic.

Though the first NGA Heart of America had only 14 competitors, Russ Testo was hired to guest pose and despite the small number of competitors, almost 200 people attended. John became not only a judge, but assisted with organizing and gave his expertise as an athlete to what not to do and what to do.

Years flew by and Jerry Thomas continued promoting the show despite the fact he suffered from severe diabetes. In 2003 Jerry was put on dialysis

about 12 hours per day and was on the list for a kidney transplant. Jerry continued to train his clients and promote the NGA Heart of America.

On the morning of the show of every year the tradition was to meet for breakfast at Jerry's favorite restaurant 6:00am. In 2004, they met at this restaurant, but as John stated, Jerry was at the table wincing in pain and pale in color. Jerry decided to skip the pre-judging and go home. He handed John the keys and said, "John, the show must go on. You know how to run it." To make a long story short, after the first round of competitors walked on stage, John received a phone call that Jerry had collapsed and was being taken to the hospital. Ten minutes later the phone rings again and he learns that Jerry had passed away of heart and kidney failure. John paused the show and explained to the audience and the competitors that the show's originator and promoter had passed. John and the rest of the crew took some time to compose themselves before resuming the 2004 NGA Heart of America.

For the past 13 years, John has been promoting this event which he renamed NGA Heart of America (JT – Jerry Thomas) Natural Classic. Every year in the memory of Jerry, THE JERRY THOMAS MEMORIAL AWARD is given out to the athlete who shows the most passion and enthusiasm for the sport.

John has continued promoting this show with great enthusiasm. He has grown this show immensely and always goes above and beyond to make sure that the athletes are treated special and the audience has a great time by having a guest poser such as Russ Testo or great entertainment such as the Chicago Boys. John has given back to his community by donating portions of his proceeds to the Tornado Relief Fund for Washington, IL

On a personal note, John is divorced with 5 kids and one granddaughter. He has been a Top 200 Mortgage Originator in the nation since 1998. He has been a speaker for several years for Superstars of Mortgage Tour to help teach people how to grow their mortgage business. And he just produced a reality TV show called America's Most Fit Beauty and is currently trying to get it syndicated with a network. But, not only has John been a great supporter and promoter to the NGA, but we consider him to be a dear friend.

With that said, will everyone please stand and help me give a warm welcome to our guest of honor, NGA Promoter, John Abraham, as he joins us on stage for the presentation?