

Alberto Zoppé Honored in Sarasota

by Rick Perdue

Alberto Zoppé, patriarch of the Zoppé family, was inducted into the Circus Ring of Fame at St. Armand's Circle Park in Sarasota, Florida on January 21, 2007. The induction is one of the highest honors given for achievement in the International circus industry. Mr. Zoppé has long been admired for his lifelong contributions to circus arts, most notable is his unique layout back somersault from one horse to another.



Photo by Scott Raffé — www.raffephoto.com

Sons Tino Wallenda-Zoppé and Giovanni Zoppé both spoke about their father's legendary accomplishments, including that in recent years he has played an intergal role in the present show, Zoppé — An Italian Family Circus. There was a tangible spectrum of emotion throughout the audience as Mr. Zoppé graciously accepted his award. Clearly humbled by the honor, he was unable to speak, as the crowd broke into the loudest standing ovation of the day.

a reception was held at the club **Showfolks of Sarasota**. Congratulations and reminiscing by friends and colleagues turned into a surprise 85th birthday party for the newly honored Ring of Fame inductee. Alberto Zoppé's gold plaque is on the east side of St. Armand's Circle Park on St. Armand's Key.

Following the ceremony