



Turns & Distances



A publication of the Officials Committee of the Pacific Association USA Track & Field
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AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

USATF OFFICIALS HALL OF FAME

- 2007.....**Horace Crow**
Leo Costanzo
- 2008.....**Lori Maynard**
George Kleeman
- 2009.....➔**Dick Connors**
- 2010.....**Bob Podkaminer**

The Dick Barbour

Meritorious Service Award

- 1985.....Hank Patton
- 1986.....George Newlon
Roxanne Anderson
- 1987.....Dan Dotta
Del Dotta
- 1988.....Harry Young
Henry "Hank" Weston
- 1989.....Ed Parker
Harmon Brown
- 1990.....Horace Crow
- 1991.....(No award)
- 1992.....➔Dick Connors
- 1993.....George Kleeman
- 1994.....Tom Moore
- 1995.....Charlie Sheppard
- 1996.....Norm Morrison
- 1997.....(no award)
- 1998.....John Luppés
- 1999.....Richard Zulaica
- 2000.....Jim Hume
Jim Wynn
- 2001.....Bob Shor
Rick Milam
- 2002.....Bob Rauch
- 2003.....Lori Maynard
Sonny Maynard
- 2004.....Gail Wetzork
- 2005.....Phil Watkins
- 2006.....Bill Edgar
- 2007.....Ed Hicks
- 2008.....Dick Iwamiya
- 2009.....Bruce Colman
- 2010.....Bobby Hughey
- 2011.....Don Bailes
- 2012.....Shirley Connors
Margaret Sheehan
- 2013.....**Bob Podkaminer**
Dr. Leon Glover

Encounters with the Elders: Questions for Dick Connors

By Bruce Colman

Richard Lloyd Connors, who passed away December 7, was one of the great figures in Pacific Association officiating. Certified going back to AAU days (April 1, 1978) —and chair of the officials committee for all but two years between its founding and 2005--he was singularly responsible for the high skill levels and standards for which PA officials are famous.

Such were this interviewer's thoughts as he watched his colleagues work the 2012 Brutus Hamilton meet. Two days, more than 70 officials, hundreds of athletes, dozens of heats, thousands of trials—and not a single field-event protest, not a single protest on a race, not a single event going off late. This was due in no small part to the culture and practices Dick (and George Kleeman) had inculcated over the years through teaching clinics (where Dick taught Level One classes for many years, along with clerking, refereeing and implement inspection), through coordinating officials at many meets, through advocating for officials in the halls of track and field governance.



Richard Lloyd Connors

April 9, 1940 - -December 6, 2013

Dick officiated at every conceivable level in our sport up through Olympic Games (he volunteered at Los Angeles and clerked at Atlanta) and he won virtually every honor bestowed by Pacific Association and by the USATF national officials committee.

He is in the national officials hall of fame (class of 2009) and the Pacific Association USATF Hall of Fame (2008).

Not the least of Dick's contributions was to found this newsletter.

THE HORACE CROW**SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD — FIELD**

1995.....	Sonny Maynard
1996.....	Rich Zulaica
1997.....	(no award)
1998.....	Bill Edgar
1999.....	Joan M. Wilson
2000.....	Phil Watkins
2001.....	Dr. Leon Glover, Jr.
2002.....	Bruce Colman
2003.....	Dick Petruzzi
2004.....	Teddy Hayes
2005.....	Shirley Connors Margaret Sheehan
2006.....	John Murray
2007.....	Bill Hawkes
2008.....	John Shirey
2009.....	Jim Waldron
2010.....	Pat Randall
2011.....	Leon Wimbley
2012.....	John Lilygren
2013.....	Charles Murphy

THE GEORGE NEWLON**SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD — TRACK**

1995.....	Bob Mason
1996.....	Ben Morjig
1997.....	(no award)
1998.....	Jerry Colman
1999.....	Bobby Hughey
2000.....	Dan Davidson
2001.....	John Coie
2002.....	Gerry Collet
2003.....	Dick Iwamiya
2004.....	Rick Urband
2005.....	Joe Harper
2006.....	Richard Cabral
2007.....	→ Colin Campbell
2008.....	Jeannie White
2009.....	Rory Osborne
2010.....	Tiffany Banks
2011.....	Phil Leake
2012.....	Dennis Boyle
2013.....	Elisabeth Price Jonathan Price

The Lori Maynard**Special Recognition Award**

2009.....	Art and Becky Klein
2010.....	Deanna and Jon Vochatzer
2011.....	Keith Conning
2012.....	Dave Shrock
2013.....	(none)

Off the field, Dick's career was in education. He and Shirley had been married since 1965; there are three Connors sons and four granddaughters and three grandsons.

On November 18, Turns and Distances sat down with Dick at his house (from the Connors' back yard, you can see College of San Mateo), and asked a few questions.

RLC: May I say something before we start?

T&D: *Of course.*

RLC: Basically, I have one more cross country meet to work. I'm working the PA cross country championships in Golden Gate Park, and then I am totally retired as an active on-field official.



"Are you here? **Dick Connors** the Clerk organizing a heard of kittens.

Air Force Base. Got to see California. A friend and I travelled up here to the Bay Area. I was impressed. I went back home, went to JC for three years. Each of those years afterwards coming out and working for Kaiser-Smith. And after I got my degree from the JC I transferred to San Jose State. And got away from the snow. Michigan is a good place to be from.

I worked for Kaiser-Smith every summer that I was in college. After I graduated I got a job at Westmoor High School. And first day on the job I met Shirley. We were both rookie teachers the same year.

T&D: *We'll miss you. You were raised in Michigan; what brought you to California?*

RLC: My dad was one of eleven children and he had a brother who was out here living as a mining engineer in Victorville, California. He came back for my grandfather's funeral in Michigan in December of 1957. He said, well, why don't you come out for a summer and stay with us and I'll get you a job working for us at Kaiser-Smith and so I took him up on it. Victorville was the concrete cement capital of the world. Two or three cement plants out there and of course Edwards

USATF National Award Certificate**2013**

Jay Abbott (Vertical Jumps, Throws)
 David Ahn (LDR Referee)
 Deanna Bower (Throws)
 Charles Buettner (Starter)
 John Collins (Throws, High Jump)
 Robert Dietrich (Track Referee, Field Referee)
 James Hart (Throws)
 Ajay Padgaonkar (Race Walk Judge, Throws)
 James Starmer (Starter)
 Lloyd Stephenson (LDR Referee)

2012

John Busto (Starter)
 Ed Gordon (Vertical Jumps)
 Peter Guerrini (Competition Secretary and
 FinishLynx operator)
 John Pretto (Throws and Vertical Jumps)
 Karen Williams (Clerk)
 Stephanie Bolden (Clerk)

2011

Mike Aro (Throws)
 Dino Certa (Starter)
 Bruce Makinson (Horizontal Jumps/Starter)
 Elisabeth Price (Race Walk Judge/Lap
 Counting)
 Jon Price (Race Walk Judge/Lap Counting)
 John Wise (Starter)

2010

Robert Benoy (Horizontal Jumps)
 Steve Green (Throws)
 Dick Cochran (Throws)
 John (J. R.) Heberle (Jumps, Starter and
 Electronic Measurement)
 Ann Gerhardt (Race Walk and Jumps)
 Leroy Milam (Clerk and Starter)

2009

Sean Laughlin (FinishLynx Operator)
 John Lilygren (Vertical Jumps)
 Baird Lloyd (LDR and Horizontal Jumps)
 Leon Wimbley (Horizontal Jumps and
 electronic measurement)
 Mark Youmans (Horizontal Jumps and
 Throws)

2008

Katherine Berman (LDR)
 Richard Berman (LDR)
 Derwent "Deri" Bowen (Throws)
 Anthony Camargo (Competition Secretary)
 Sue Murray (Throws)
 Ted Waldo (Jumps and Throws)

2007

Irene Herman (LDR, Umpire)
 Jeanne Sanders (Horizontal Jumps)
 Mike Sands (Vertical Jumps)
 Robert Thompson
 Mark Winitz (LDR)

2006

Andy Anderson (Starter)
 Dennis Boyle (Vertical Jumps)
 Charles Des Jardins (LDR, Field Referee)
 Joe Keever (Throws)
 Jon Siegel (Vertical Jumps)

[Shirley, looking in: "for our first date, we went into San Francisco with two other teachers and had dinner."] I taught at Westmoor for nine years. Then I went to administration. Went to the junior high schools. Vice-principal, principal, and then I wound up back in the fifth grade. Retired in two thousand [Shirley, walking through: "One"] 2001.

T&D: Before Title IX, you were one of the principals in the Millbrae Lions Track team. (Don Bailes told us that his Orinda Girls and Women's Track Club was "always bumping heads with these guys.") Any outstanding memories, of particular meets or athletes or rivalries?

RLC: I was one of the coaches with **Ed Parker, Dr. Harmon Brown and Jim Hume**. I worked with the hurdlers, the younger age groups. The Millbrae Lions existed because Ed Parker and Dr. Brown saw a need for a girls' and womens' track program on the Peninsula. And of course this was before high school offered anything for girls and women so they started small, our reputation spread, we picked up several of the Olympians during the seventies: **Marilyn King, Cathy Sulinski, Lucia Vaamonde**

from Venezuela, **Barbara Pickel, Lynn Cannon**. They worked with these girls and they kept trying to recruit. They had high school kids from the peninsula, then they finally broke into the City and got several families of Black children.

That was the most exciting time for the Millbrae Lions, because **Don Bailes** (Orinda Track Club), **Augie Augabright** (San Jose Cindergals), **Will Stephens** (Will's Spikettes) and **Roxie Anderson** (Laurel Track Club) provided great competition and friendship. In those days there were two local indoor meets a year, at the Cow Palace and in the Oakland Coliseum, and there were more indoor meets in the Los Angeles area. One of the things that we found, the biggest thing we could do for kids, was put them into the Cow



In later years, Dick turned to Implement Inspection, the weighing and measuring of the throwing implements.

PACIFIC ASSOCIATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

bold face = certified official

HALL OF FAME AWARD

- 2007..... **George Kleeman**
Lori Maynard
Sonny Maynard
Horace Crow
Tom Moore
Dr. Harmon Brown
- 2008..... Ed Miller
 → **Richard Connors**
- 2009..... **Robert 'Pod' Podkaminer**
- 2011..... **Don Bailes**

SERVICE AWARD

- 2003..... **George Kleeman**
Charlie Sheppard
- 2004..... Ron Daniels
 John Mansoor
- 2005..... **JoAnne Camargo**
Irene Herman
- 2006..... Cynci Calvin
Robert 'Bob' Shor
- 2007..... Tyler Abbott;
Robert 'Pod' Podkaminer
- 2008..... **Mark Winitz**
Maura Kent
- 2011..... Jack Leydig
 Joy Upshaw
Lee Webb

TOM MOORE AWARD

- 2002..... **Tom Moore**
- 2003..... **Dr. Harmon Brown**
Herb Rodabaugh
- 2005..... **Robert Bowman**
- 2009..... **Robert 'Bob' Rush**
- 2011..... **Sean Laughlin**

COACH'S LEGACY AWARD

- 2009..... James "Jim" Hunt
- 2010..... Bud Winter
 Jim Santos

Palace because at that time track and field was popular and the Cow Palace would fill up. And here you have these kids basically 8, 9, 12, or 13, running in front of 14,000 people and they've got their grandparents there and people are on the track and it's hands on and screaming. It was a fantastic time for the girls we had running for the Millbrae Lions.

And then basically in the outdoor season, we could not do that much for them, even going to the national championship wasn't as great a thrill as running indoors at the Cow Palace.

After I was with them for several years, then they added a boys' age-group track team, and we were overwhelmed with kids for a couple years, before Parker came to the realization that we couldn't handle it all, and we went back strictly to girls.

Probably our biggest Olympian was Leslie Maxie. She brought the most excitement to us. We were at the airport greeting her when she came back from Seoul, Korea. Of course while she was with the Millbrae Lions, she set the world junior record in the 400 meter hurdles (57.20), at the national meet in San Jose. That was quite an accomplishment.



Dick Connors, the starter.

T&D: You are mostly identified with track and running events —rather than throwing or jumping—and you've been recruiting and assigning officials for different meets for many years. What qualities do you look for in a clerk? In a starter?

RLC: A good starter has to have good self-confidence. He's gotta know when he's out there on this track that he can do the job. That is probably the most significant thing. And then he's gotta have some skills. And the voice is as important as any of the other mechanics. Even an amplified voice from a starter who has a bad voice is not good because it shows a shakiness.

And in cross country the starter has got to know how to blow a whistle and use the non-verbal mechanics. Again: reliable, punctual, honors their commitments. These are big things in starters. Because you know, if you're the starter for a high school track meet and you don't show up, there's 200 kids out there, waiting with the coach for the meet to start, sucking their thumbs and the coach has got to do it himself or the meet doesn't go on.

In terms of clerks, you have to be fairly well organized. Again, punctuality. You've got to put some forethought into it, and if you're gonna

have a big meet you've got to know what jobs you want your people to do. You have to have good communications with the meet director in terms of how entries are going to be handled, how much time he

wants between events, whether you can change lanes or not. All of this is significant!

And then the clerk has got to be a clock watcher. That is, every meet has a time schedule. If you don't get the first event off on time, the rest of the track meet, the rest of the day, is not going to run in a punctual way. You gotta really push to make that first event go on time. And then keep the meet on time thereafter, particularly if you've got lots and lots of races. A minute here, a minute there makes a tremendous difference.

The clerks have to stick with you the entire day. That is, if they're gonna be an escort clerk,

they've got to escort the people to the start. If they're going to be a line clerk, they gotta know to put the people on the line. And then the clerk has gotta know the track, in terms of where the starts are, because the starters usually don't assert themselves to get the participants to the start on time.

Then there's a whole list of supplies a clerk should carry. Yeah, it's somebody else's meet, but if you don't bring your pins, or you don't bring your pencils, you're probably not going to have any, and it's the same thing, you can always go around chasing a clipboard, but if you bring

your own, you got them and you're ready to operate.

I think *Clerk of the Course*—that's Bob Podkaminer's computer program--did more to revolutionize running events on the track than anything that has happened since, particularly in large invitational



None of us were ever that young. Dick is on the left as you look at the picture from the mid '70s. The Millbrae Lions Club, which sponsored the team, annually invited the team to one of their dinners.

meets, like we do at Stanford and I think we initiated it. That is, the clerk, when he shows up, is given an alpha list of all the entrants in the event. When those kids check in, we circle their names and they're there. We do not assign them to a heat or a lane at that time. Twenty minutes before the start of that race, we close those entries, then Sean Laughlin, using Podkaminer's program, puts them in heats and lanes for us, and so we don't run any empty lanes in the preliminaries of the sprint events. Eliminates lots of heats and it gets good competition for all the kids. That has been a big, big change and

important thing that has happened in the running events in recent years.

They carried it much further when they were able to link it to the *FinishLynx* program, and so now they're giving out finish times within seconds of the kid crossing the finish line. And in the last four-to-five years, even as the Meet Referee, I think I've only had one or two challenges to a finish. The coaches accept what comes out over the PA, particularly, when you go to a place that has big video screens, and they put it on the screen, there is never a question. Pod revolutionized things for us, big time.

T&D: You are also a highly ranked referee and technical official. What is the worst or most difficult situation you've had to deal with on the field of play?

RLC: I was telling Shirley at breakfast this morning, it probably

happened in the late nineties. It was up here at Belmont, at a cross-country race. I was the meet referee; it was the Peninsula Athletic League championships. It was a varsity race, very strongly contended, the race probably had 20 or so kids already in, but Half Moon Bay was missing their fifth runner. He was a little, short guy. And coming in to the finish, he was totally exhausted. The pressure was on because all his friends were out around the course and of course yelling, "don't let anybody pass you, don't let anybody pass you." Well, within the last ten yards, he's overtaken, but rather than let the kid pass, he attempts to block him, and he really disrupts the

finish of the runner who is passing him. And so I had to disqualify him. And of course that was the championship for Half Moon Bay and there were a lot of tears and so forth. It was a tough call, but it was a call that had to be made in terms of what was right on that finish line.

I've been blessed that I've had some very accepting coaches, in terms of some of the calls. For example, last year at the D-3's in La Crosse, Wisconsin, I was the meet referee, it was a close call on a relay, and the relay judge was right. The team had qualified, and I had to tell the coach, coach I'm sorry, your team passed out of the zone, and he said, "I was pretty much aware of

what you were going to tell me."

T&D: Let's talk about governance. You chaired the Pacific Association Officials Committee for the better part of 20 years. What was your singular achievement in two decades of service?



In 2008, Stanford University presented Dick Connors and Dr. Leon Glover with silver plates in recognition of their years of service to Stanford Track & Field.

RLC: In 1985 a group of us went to the Pan American Games in Indianapolis, Indiana. And I was probably the most disappointed one there. Yes, I liked the chance to go to the Pan American Games, but I had missed out on being a working official in '84 at the Olympic Games. There were eight people appointed from the Pacific Association as officials, and I felt in terms of my own personal self-image that I had worked a lot harder and done a lot more things than some of the others who had been appointed.

The big thing then was that nobody communicated anything. There were no annual meetings, there was no newsletter, everything

was by word of mouth. Any educational programs that took place were very small, not involving a lot of people, and it was the good old boy network that went on here. And so **George Kleeman**, myself, **Bob Mason**, **Gail Wetzork**, **John Luppes**, **Joyce Johnson**, **Bob Anderson**, we were all at Indianapolis and we said, something's got to change.

I had written a letter at that time to the NCAA news regarding San Jose State's dropping their track team, and it had been published in the NCAA news. I had gotten feedback from across the country because that was the same year that Northwestern had dropped their men's and women's teams. I told the guys, if you'll let me be chairperson, I will write a newsletter.

And I was elected and **Hume**, **Podkaminer**, myself started writing a newsletter. Three, four, five times the first couple of years. We had **Lori Maynard** to help us because she could spell and knew how to construct sentences. So we started with simple mimeographed stuff, no pictures. As Hume became more literate and more of a nerd, things changed dramatically, but Podkaminer used to print it off at his office for us, free of charge. We finally went to a printer. By the time that rolled around we were putting pictures in. And I think we started out with four pages. After five or six years we got up to 16 pages, and we've gone to 20 I think once. And we won't go to 20 again,

because that's too much. We always seem to have enough material to fill up the 20 pages.

We have to look at it in terms of how valuable is it to our readership. Do they get anything out of it? Do they read it? But we have added features. I was doing the schedule of meets for a while. Then Lori Maynard said, Dick, I'll take over from you, and finally **Bill Hawkes** took over the scheduling of meets. So the jobs have spread out.

Then the guys now have really started to contribute. **John Shirey** has contributed numerous times and others have too.

I have to hope people feel free to contribute to the newsletter.

I think that newsletter has drawn us together tremendously. Before we started, we had no officials in the Chico-Redding area, none whatsoever. Reno was hanging on by its fingernails. And so those have been our two biggest areas of growth. We got there by good local leadership in those areas, and by putting on a good educational program for the people they've recruited and are aspiring to work as track and field officials.



Dick and Shirley at Dick's 65th birthday party.

T&D: You and Shirley are among the "power couples" in Pacific Association—you are both master officials with national reputations, and you both hold or have held various offices in association and national governance. How do you make that work? How do you decide whether to work the same meets or different ones? Do you talk track and field at the dinner table?

RLC: One of the things that this association has done well is recruiting and keeping women as officials

and then moving them up and not letting the good old boys walk over the top of them. My wife is a prime example, where she has been able to go so far as a female official. Some of our other females have been very assertive and are doing a good job, going back to Lori Maynard, too. Yeah, we haven't done that well getting minorities in, but I think we've done a heck of a job in terms of getting women in and keeping them in and not letting them get bulldozed in terms of working meets and working assignments.

Shirley's being an active official is a godsend at home because I never have to worry about scheduling a track meet. She's always a willing participant. Dinner may be late some nights or if we're on the road I may have to take her out to dinner. But we never have a problem.



Phil Leake presented Dick with a symbolic gavel representing his many years as Chair of the Officials' committee.

Do we talk track and field at the dinner table? Probably when we're on the road more so than when we are at home. Because when we're on the road, we're working with new personalities, and we usually talk somewhat about personalities in terms of what's going on. Probably the most time we talk is during the Stanford Invitational week, because we're both

dealing with a lot of personalities that have to fit together to make the situation go. And there's always one or two new people who have to be brought into the situation and adjusted.

Going back to talking track and field, we both go our own directions pretty much. That is, she has come into the education part of the association as I've backed off the executive committee and she has taken over this education thing with Hume and I'm usually the last one to know what's going on in terms of the educational stuff, who's teaching what and where we're teaching this and so forth. I think I go along for the ride in terms of that.

In terms of other meets, we do go to different meets. I can't right now give you an example.

[Shirley, from the next room: "Pac 10s, Pac 12s."]

The last several years I've always gone to the Big West and she has gone to the Pac 10s or Pac 12s. And that is, my wife likes to travel, she has friends in various cities, and when she went to the Pac 12s in Arizona, she had places to stay and so those are incentives for her to go on her own. And coming up this year she is filling her calendar, as a regular calendar, leaving me behind, which she rightfully should do.

I don't go to the long jump triple jump, and she doesn't come over to the clerking area, we both have our own cadre of friends and colleagues, and we don't interfere in each other's jobs. She usually comes over the clerking area to wonder when I'm coming home. But other than that, we usually don't interfere.

T&D: As you look back and as you look forward, what changes would you like to see in our sport?

RLC: Women saved high school track and field. The boys' programs were going nowhere 15 years ago. Bringing on the girls has helped every high school program in the country. Our participation level at the high school level is I think improving every year and we're having better facilities, which has also been a key thing.

But we are not accepted in the greater media world and I don't think we're doing much in

terms of being a spectator sport other than every four years. Professional sports have really taken over for us and the mass media doesn't see us as a major draw and every four years we can get the TV ratings but the shows we put on in the intervening three years, we just don't get the appreciation of our athletes and how hard they work and that they're out there doing it all four years of the Olympiad.

I think in terms of what we do in the colleges, I don't think the collegiate invitational is all it

RLC: Their father's dabbling got the kids involved in Modern Pentathlon. That is, our oldest son, his mother had him swimming at three years old. In fact, all three of our boys were swimmers by the time they were three years old. And so by the time he got to junior high school, he was a pretty fair swimmer. But then he was a good distance runner also, had a lot of cardiovascular strength. And so as a freshman in high school, he ran cross country. I think he made the Aragon varsity as a freshman. He did a very nice job.



When Dick taught the Introduction to Track & Field Officiating Clinics, the highlight of his session was his tour of the track. Dick's tour consistently received the highest evaluation.

should be. I like the dual meet. If they'd take a couple of the distance races out and get that thing under three hours, we'll bring people back to track and field as a spectator sport. But we try to present too much at one time and consequently our people get bored on both ends as opposed to being an attentive spectator.

T&D: You have links to another Olympic sport—some may say, an obscure Olympic sport—that involves not only running but swimming, fencing, equine jumping and pistol-shooting. Tell us about your family and the Modern Pentathlon.

So after the season was over, the coach from San Mateo High, whose name was **Don Dooley**, since deceased, came up to me and asked me, "Dick have you ever thought about putting that kid in the Modern Pentathlon?" And I said, "What's the Modern Pentathlon, Don?" and he said a friend has been involved in it and there's a couple of kids from Mills High School that were involved in it. Why don't you see what goes on?

So at the time—this was before Reagan wiped out the military—the United States Army was subsidizing a Modern Pentathlon team at

Fort Sam Houston, Texas. So I wrote a letter to the colonel, got my son **Jay** accepted into a summer camp. Went down there with him, looked over the situation, let him stay for two weeks and came home. The next year, between his sophomore and junior year, he trained here at home. We got him involved in fencing in the city, put him up on horses down here in San Mateo and I bought him a gun. A father buying a 13-year-old a fifteen hundred dollar gun, I kind of questioned myself about what I was doing. And so his youngest brother was in the seventh grade and he said, "Dad, I want to do that too." So we started his younger brother, **Skip**, at it, and Skip went to summer camps also, and ended up going to six World Championships and won a team Gold Medal in 1997 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Moving forward, Jay did a good job in it, in terms of run/swim. He was learning to be a

pretty good equestrian, but he was not a fencer or a shooter. He did not have the calmness in terms of the shooting they were doing at that time. He probably wasn't that good of an athlete in terms of fencing. But he had some good success in it, travelled around the United States and was part of the Olympic Festivals. In fact, both brothers were part of the Olympic Festivals and Jay was part of the training team for the Olympic Games, but was never really a candidate for the Games.

And then Skip went every year during high school to Fort Sam Houston and he trained all summer and then after he came home in '88 or '89, we put him in college for a semester, that didn't work out, so he went back to training full time at Fort Sam Houston and he stayed with it from '89 until after 1997.

We made numerous trips to Texas. I went



Official's Hall of Fame...Len Kzsak (National Official's Chair), son Jay (James Edwin Connors, Major, Senior National Guard Advisor, Army Cyber Command), USATF CEO Doug Logan, Dick Connors, Dick's wife Shirley, USATF President Stephanie Hightower and his sons Marc (Marc Oliver Connors, P&D Driver for Oak Harbor Freight Line) and Skip (James Edwin Connors, newly promoted Captain, Dallas Fire & Rescue).

through the officials training for Modern Pentathlon but actually only worked as an official with them in the running events. In 2002, the United States hosted the world championships for Modern Pentathlon at Stanford, and of course Vin Lanana and Michael Reilly there, and knowing my background they got me involved, so basically with Michael's assistance, I organized the whole running aspect and got 13 or 14 of our officials to be assistants with us at that meet.

T&D: How many officials' shirts—meet shirts, school or uniform shirts—do you have at any given time?

RLC: I would imagine there is a hundred back there. I've got my '96 Olympics uniform back there, too, complete with tie, trousers, jacket, hat and the whole business.

T&D: And finally—the question we ask each Elder—what advice do you have for the neophyte official, for someone who has just become certified, just joined us, and is beginning a career in officiating?

I try to get 'em out on the track, involved, even before they go to a clinic. And then not just have them pull tape, have 'em do something that is meaningful in terms of the competition. Most people are literate enough that they can write numbers down, if you tell 'em where to write the numbers down. And then you tell them how to score it and you get them hooked that way. But you've got to involve them, give them some responsibility. People enjoy responsibility.

And then, at the track, we're working with honor students. That is, I taught school for 38 years but on the track, I had my honor students. That is, Mr. Connors, how high do I have to jump?, not I'm not going to jump. And so they are good kids to work with and they take direction very well. It's a very rewarding situation to be able to run a situation like that.

And you get to some of the bigger meets, like lining people up for the 10,000 meters. Here I am, out on the track, with my simple voice, lining up forty guys to run 10,000 meters, and they're listening to me like I'm God. And they're doing it. These are very rewarding situations.

And I've enjoyed it for forty nine years now and I've gotta be very thankful for that. But you

gotta get the young guys involved. And I think George initiated it, that at the field events, we rotate positions. We don't let people stand in the same spot all day long. We rotate positions and give them a chance to show their value in the various spots in terms of working at the meet.

T&D: Thank you for your time, Dick, thanks for talking about all this history, all these issues.

RLC: Right now I'm trying to unload a lot of paper that I've generated in track and field. It's a struggle. Everything I have to look at and read because I did it once. Can't just simply put it in the grinder, gotta see what I did there. So, we go marching on.

Bruce Colman would like to thank many individuals for their help with this interview: Shirley Connors Jim Hume, George Kleeman, Sonny Maynard, Jennifer Oliver and Bob Podkaminer, and of course, most of all, Margaret Sheehan.

The family requests donations instead of flowers be made in his honor to the: Pacific Association USATF Foundation, 120 Ponderosa Court, Folsom, CA 95630.

The Pacific Association USATF Foundation is a not-for-profit 501 (C) (3) organization. Learn more about the Foundation on [this page](#) of the Pacific Association's website.



Remember how I mentioned that Dick taught school?

Also Missing From The Track...John Pretto remembers Colin "Soup" Campbell

John Pretto is a certified official who lives in Jackson, California.

I first met Colin during the track season of 1977 when I started coaching track at Jackson High School. Colin was the starter at Amador High School, where we had the invitational meets in the area along with the sub-section and section meets in the Sac Joaquin Section. During this time I found him to be athlete-friendly while being an excellent starter and official. In 1997, we started to have our home meets on our campus in Jackson where we were no longer the Jackson Tigers but the Argonaut Mustangs. Colin who was raised in Sutter Creek and an exceptional athlete in his days at Amador High always referred to us as the Brand X High School. For the next five years he was my starter and referee at our home meets which added greatly to the efficient running of the meets. I had to contact Colin every November to assure we could get him to start, since he had a full schedule every year.

In 2002, during my last year of coaching, Colin encouraged me to become an USATF Official and there started the second chapter of my track experience with him. For the next eleven years we traveled around northern California working high school duals, high school invitational, section meets, college meets and national championships. Colin would do his starting work and I headed off to the field events. Often **Bobby Hughey** would ride with us. It was good for me to have those two to talk about the day's meet and share their insight in helping me to become a better official. It was during these outings that the



Colin "Soup" Campbell

traditional stops at In and Out Hamburgers began. Colin always said he would drive, since he got paid to start, but I could buy dinner and I agreed.

Colin had to sit out the 2011 season due to illness. On the way back from the Big Sky Meet at Sacramento State I stopped to visit Colin at the hospital in Lodi.

It was during this visit that he shared with me that he would like to start again.

During the 2012 and 2013 seasons Colin and I started high school meets in our area. He mentored me, being very patient with me as I learned to become a starter. He even taught me how to pack shells. I have some great memories of those two seasons. I learned from Colin to be fair but be patient with the athletes which often meant calling them up from the blocks to help to get a good start.

I know that Colin often was struggling to work those meets. Even below par he was better than I was. We started our last meet together on May 11 at the Mother Lode Meet in San Andreas, a meet Colin had started for nearly forty years.

Next season will be different for me. I will miss Colin and also **Steve Green**. Those two men played a great role in my track experiences, and were great friends.

We all know that some days the meets get long and the help is not there. When those days come along remember *Soup*, Steve, and the others we have lost for they gave to our sport their most valuable gift--their time.

*Memorial contributions may be made in Colin's name to **Charitable Foundation of Native Sons of the Golden West, Cleft Palate Fund**, 414 Mason Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-1708 or **Colin Campbell High School Female Track Athlete Scholarship**, C/O El Dorado Savings Bank, 460 Highway 49, Sutter Creek, CA 95685. Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting danerimortuary.com and signing the guest book.*