

# In Remembrance of George Kleeman – 1940 to 2018



One of our nation's most respected experts on technical track and field rules and competitions passed Sunday morning, April 22 in Martinez California one week after suffering a major heart attack at the age of 77.

Though many of us recognize George's contributions to both national and association events and committees over the past three decades, many don't know George was an accomplished distance runner in the 60-70's having run 20 plus marathons and three Ultras. George won the USA-AAU 50 mile championships in 1979 earning a spot on the USA team competing the 1979 London to Brighton Ultra Run.

George earned his Ph.D in Chemical Engineering from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, and as an engineer for Shell built refineries around the country which brought him to the Gulf, West Virginia and finally Pacific associations where he built the Shell Martinez refinery before retiring in 1999.

During his professional tenure, George had two short start-up assignments in Finland and the Netherlands, while designing six chemical and refining plants.

While in Houston and the Gulf Association George was instrumental in the further development of the Houston Marathon as meet director for many years.

George was an usher and Eucharistic Minister at his church for the last 19 years.

*"George was an institution unto himself. An integral part of USATF National Committees as well as the Pacific Association for decades. He will be sorely missed."*  
John Mansoor, Pacific Association CEO.

Born December 22, 1940; Died April 22, 2018

Level of Certification: Master            Grade 3 Referee    ITO

Years Officiating 43    First Certified 1980    First Officiated 1975



from Carol McLatchie

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Events Worked:

Olympic Games – 3: in 1996 Atlanta, IAAF Adjudication Crew, 1996 Paralympics as Field Director, 2008 Beijing as ITO for IAAF

Olympic Trials - 4: in 1992, Throws Coordinator, Hammer Head, 2000 Sacramento Technical Manager, Officials Coordinator, 2004 Sacramento Technical Director, 2008 Eugene Assist Field Coordinator

USATF Open National Championships – 14: in 87-91,93-95,98,01-03,05,07 as Head, Hammer, Discus, Javelin, Shot

USATF Youth National Championships-5: 85,95,97,01,07

USATF Masters National Championships -3: 93, 95 Indoor, 97

NCAA National Championships – 6: All Div. I-1992 Tulane, 94 Boise, Technical Director for Sacramento in 2003,2005,2006,2007

High School Championships – 10: West Virginia 1984, California in 85,87,97,99,01,04,05,07

Other: NAIA 4 84 WV, 88,89,94 LA

Olympic Festivals - 4: 86,89,90,91

Goodwill Games – 2: 90 Records Chair, 98 Field Referee

Bruce Jenner IAAF Meet- 9: in 85,86,90-96

IAAF World Cup 50 Km Race Walk San Jose in 1990 Lead Lap Recorder

World Masters – 7: 85,89,99,01,03,05,07, Referee and ITO for 1993 to 2007

National XC Championships – 5: 77,83,92,02,06

Pan Am Games in 1987 Hammer Crew

National Juniors in 88 Hammer

National Open Indoors in Atlanta 3 in 95-97

Paralympics in 1996 as Field Manager

World University Games in 1993 Head Discus, Hammer

World Special Olympics 1999 Referee  
IAAF World Outdoor Champ. in 2003 ITO  
IAAF World Indoor Champ. In 04 Head ITO  
Pan AM Junior Champ. in 03 Head ITO  
NACAC under 23 Champ. in 2004 ITO  
NACAC Combined Events Challenge - 3 times: in 2005-07 ITO in Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic

#### **OFFICES HELD (OLYMPIC, USOC, AAU, TAC, USATF, NCAA, ETC.)**

President Pacific Assoc 1989- 1992, 1997-2000, Pacific Treasurer 1985-1990, 1992-1997, West Virginia Association President 1984; National Officials Training Chair 1997-2003, Officials Rules Chair 2004-2018, IAAF Technical Officials Taskforce Chair 1997-2004, Chair of Equipment and Facilities Specifications Subcommittee 1990-2008

#### **BOOKS WRITTEN OR EDITED, PROFESSIONAL ARTICLES PUBLISHED**

Numerous monographs on all aspects of officials training and practice. Track Meet Management, Editor for Equipment and Facilities Specification Subcommittee newsletter from 1990 to 2008.

#### **OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND/OR SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

It is not too much to say that George is the heart and soul of the Pacific Association USATF—especially of the Officials Committee. With a few other individuals, George created or inspired an officials training program most of our training materials and most of our institutions and practices.

He is the one virtually every member of the Pacific Official's Committee, indeed of the PA leadership, comes to first for institutional policies, for rules clarification and general advice.

#### **National Committees:**

Associations Committee: 1989-1992 Treasurer 1990-1992  
Officials Committee: Attended all meetings since inception, Member 1980-1984 and 1990 to 2018,  
Officials Training Chair, 1997-2003,  
Equipment and Specification Sub Committee Chair 1990-2018  
Official Rules Chair, 2004-2018  
Master LDR, 1978-2003 Rules Representative 1986-2003  
Women's LDR, Regional Vice President 1978-1984  
Men's LDR, 1978-1984 as Gulf and West Virginia Representatives  
LDR Division Executive Committee 2000-2018  
Race Walking 1981-1984 as West Virginia Representative  
Rules Committee Associate Editor 1990 to 2018  
IAAF Technical Officials Taskforce, 1997-2018, Chair 2000-2004  
USATF Budget Committee, 1997-1998  
Registration Committee, 1982-1983

#### **Association Committees:**

Gulf LDR AAU Chair 1975-1980  
West Virginia LDR Chair 1981-1984  
West Virginia Race Walking Chair 1981-1984  
West Virginia Track and Field Chair 1983-1984  
West Virginia Registration Chair 1981-1984  
Race Director for Gulf Association Races 1975-1980 including Houston Marathon,  
West Virginia Officials Committee 1981-1984  
Pacific Association Officials Committee 1985-2004, Regional Representative 1987-1989, Training Chair 1987-  
Current, Certification Committee 1988, Executive Committee 1987-current.

**Association Officer roles:**

Vice President LDR Chair, Gulf Association 1979-1980

Vice President, West Virginia Association 1980-1983

President, West Virginia Association 1984

George came to governance within the Pacific Association when he accepted the job of Treasurer shortly after he arrived in 1985.

Treasurer, Pacific Association 1985-1990 and 1992-1997

President, Pacific Association 1989-1992 and 1997-2000

Past President, Pacific Association 2001-2018

Pacific Foundation Chairman 2001-2018

**National Awards:**

Scott Hamilton Award for LDR Contributions in 1979

First recipient of Horace Crow Award for Association Committee 1992

Andy Bakjian Officials Award 1994

Giegengack Award, 1998

Otto Essig Award (Master's LDR) 2000

USATF President's Award 2003

Officials Committee Chair's Award 2005

National Officials' Committee Hall of Fame 2008

**Pacific Association Awards:**

Dick Barbour Award for Meritorious Service to Officiating in Pacific Association 1993

Officiating Service Award 1992

1980 Gulf Area LDR Service Award

1979 Texas Inside Running Service Award for LDR work in Gulf Association

1978 Race Directors Award for LDR Program in Gulf

Association Service Award 2003

Contribution Award, University of California 2007

The first Dick Connors Meritorious Service Award 2015

**Official: 1974-present**

ITO 2001-2018 , ATO 1999-2001

Master Level Official 1985-2007, National Level Official 1980-1984, Association Level Official 1978-1979

Local Official 1974-1977

National Championship Meets in LDR, XC and RW in 1978-1980

Meet Director for 1975-1980 Houston Marathon, Meet Director 1979 AAU National Marathon Championship

for Men and Women in Houston, Co Meet Director for 1977 National Cross Country Championship in Houston.

Technical coordinator for most if not all of the NCAA/USATF national Championships in Sacramento, as well as the US and World Masters Championships in Sacramento.