

Hall of Fame mourns loss of U.S. cricket pioneer Roy Sweeney

The Cricket Hall of Fame is mourning the loss of one of cricket's greatest enthusiasts and strongest promoter of the game in the U.S., Roy Sweeney, who passed away at the age of 77 on April 24, 2013.

Best known for his contributions to the sport of cricket, his greatest passion, Sweeney who was inducted into the Cricket Hall of Fame in August 24, 1991, was one of the first recipients of the institution's Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2008, the International Cricket Council (ICC), the governing body of world cricket, presented him one of only two gold medals that were awarded to cricket administrators in the U.S.



Not only was Sweeney's dedication and hard work in helping with the development of the sport which he so dearly loved in the U.S. outstanding, but he was also a man of high morals who displayed good sportsmanship both on and off the field. He inspired those around him by example and therein lays his greatness.

Born in Jamaica, Sweeney who was very successful in academics worked for many years at the Ministry of Housing in the island, before migrating to the U.S. in 1955 to continue his education. He graduated from Polytechnic University with a degree in Structural Engineering and worked for several construction companies over many years. He is a member of the International Union of engineers.

On his arrival in the U.S. Sweeney co-founded Westbury Cricket Club and served as president for 26 years. As a result of his leadership Westbury became one of the premier clubs in New York, winning a record number of championships. He was also a driving force in the organization of both the Eastern American and Connecticut Cricket Leagues and also served the Metropolitan Cricket League in various capacities including vice-President and Public Relations Officer.

Turning to bigger things in the game, Sweeney founded the United States Cricket Promoters Association and shortly after created history by bringing a full West Indies team to play four games in New York in 1985 and 1986. The West Indies squads were led by Sir Clyde Lloyd on both occasions.

Sweeney also came to the rescue of former Test player Winston Davis who was paralyzed in an accident by organizing several fund-raising events in his honor.

Receiving great support from several elected officials, politicians and public servants in New York, Sweeney was able to secure several cricket facilities in New York. Gateway cricket field, Floyd Bennett cricket field and the field at Canarsie Park are a few of the facilities that he had on hand in. He was honored by Mayor Bloomberg at City Hall, and by New York Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe.

We ask that members of the cricket fraternity at large throughout the U.S. join us in paying tribute and respect to one of the pioneers of the game in the U.S.