



Hall of Fame

Arnold Astrada

San Jose, California

Inducted in 1997

Hearts come in all sizes but there is no heart larger or kinder than that of Arnie. We in the United Kingdom have had the privilege to meet athletes from all over the world. They all have their own qualities and are outstanding ambassadors for their respective countries. Arnie takes the meaning of ambassador to a higher level. His feeling for other athletes, no matter what their creed or color, makes him a giant among men. It matters not to him who they are. If they need help, then he is always the first in line to guide and give encouragement. This we have seen him do time and time again. If they are prepared to listen, then he is prepared to teach, no matter how long it may take.



So were the sentiments of one of Arnold's international admirers, journalist Gray Garner of the UK. This was not a unique sentiment; Arnold Astrada was universally loved and respected not only as an athlete and competitor, but also as a human being.

Injured while in the US Army as a member of the special forces, Arnie found wheelchair sports, specifically field events, as a great way to keep in shape and pursue that competitive drive. He competed in three separate Paralympic competitions, the 1988 Seoul Paralympics; the Barcelona Games in 1992; and the 1996 Paralympic Games in Atlanta. In all, Arnie won one gold, two silver and one bronze in Paralympic competition.

He also competed in multiple World Championships, National Championships and World Games. Arnie held numerous national records, primarily in the shot put, but was also an all-around field athlete.

Perhaps Arnie's greatest legacy was his advocacy and work in promoting the sport he loved. His patience in working with youngsters was legendary. He would take all the time needed for each young athlete to feel a sense of success; demonstrating, encouraging and cheering them on. Arnie's love, enthusiasm and positivity succeeded in producing many outstanding field athletes to follow in his very large shadow.