



Gymnastics loses a pioneer

The U.S. gymnastics family has lost one of its pioneers -- Glenn Marlin Sundby of Carlsbad, Calif., a founder of the U.S. Gymnastics Federation (now known as USA Gymnastics), died March 18 at the age of 87. He was an original, and his lifelong love and passion for gymnastics helped transform the sport into what it is today. The many tributes to Sundby are a testament to the man and his contributions to the sport he loved, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this time.

Glenn was among those who brought attention to Santa Monica's famed Muscle Beach. From his earliest days as a high school gymnast and acrobat to publishing gymnastics magazines for over 50 years, Glenn touched almost every area of gymnastics, helping start both USA Gymnastics and the U.S. Sports Acrobat Federation.

Glenn created a hand-balancing act with George Wayne Long, a former ex-wrestler and body builder he met at Muscle Beach, and their act "Rhapsody in Balance" appeared at carnivals, theaters and small nightclubs.

In 1945, his sister Dolores joined the act, forming the Wayne-Marlin Trio. Their stunts included a photograph of the trio on top of a 25-story hotel in Miami Beach, Fla., and in 1949 in Washington D.C., Glenn walked down the 898 steps of the Washington Monument on his hands, gaining national recognition.

After the act was retired, Glenn started "The Modern Gymnast" with a complimentary issue in December 1956 and the first issue in May 1957. He was a one-man show, doing everything from writing to photography to producing the magazine and getting it mailed. His other ventures included creating the Santa Monica Gymfest, a fun competition, in 1963 and launching "Mademoiselle Gymnast," which was eventually combined with "The Modern Gymnast" into "Gymnast" that covered both men's and women's gymnastics. After the 1976 Olympic Games, the magazine's

name was changed to "International Gymnast", which continues today in its current form.

In 1962, Glenn was present at the organizational meeting where the U.S. Gymnastics Federation (USGF) was born and served as the vice president. He also co-founded the U.S. Sports Acrobatics Federation (which became a part of USA Gymnastics in 2002) in the 1970s with George Nissen. Glenn also established the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame in Oceanside, Calif., in 1986, which moved to Oklahoma City, Okla., in 1996.

His many honors and accolades include: member of the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame (1968); "Spirit of the Flame" honoree of USA Gymnastics' Athlete's Council; Master of Sport from the U.S. Gymnastics Federation (1982); World Acrobatic Society Gallery of Honor (2000); and the Charles Pond Service Award (2005).

In addition to his sister Dolores, Glenn also had a twin sister, Gladys, and an adopted son, Scott.



**GLENN SUNDBY
1921 - 2009**

We appreciate the many members of the gymnastics community who have shared what Glenn Sundby meant to them and to our sport. The wonderful tributes to Sundby provide a glimpse into the man who touched so many individuals in the gymnastics community. To read what others have said about him, go to <http://www.usa-gymnastics.org/home/pages/sundby-tribute.php>. Donations in Sundby's name may be forwarded to the Santa Monica Historical Society, P.O. Box 3059, Santa Monica, CA 90403. Please join with us in remembering and recognizing Glenn Sundby.

Regards,

President

"Glenn's enthusiasm for everything gymnastics was most important. He was always determined to preserve the sport's history, giving credit to the great ones that developed the sport. Glenn will be missed, but his contributions will be felt for generations." - Peter Vidmar Chairman of USA Gymnastics