

The full Hall of Fame publication for Joe Mollo is not able to be found in the archives for this posting. In lieu of that, the candidate letter written by the organization's founder, Duke Nyhus, has been published below.



CALIFORNIA POLICE ATHLETIC FEDERATION

8304 CLAIREMONT MESA BLVD., SUITE 107

SAN DIEGO, CA 92111

858.571.9919

FAX: 858.571.1641

E-MAIL: 4INFO@CPAF.ORG



January 12, 2012

Mike Graham, President
CPAF Directors

Subject: Hall of Fame Candidacy – Joe Mollo

Bob Burke, Director Emeritus, and I respectfully submit Founding Director Joe Mollo as a candidate for the California Police Athletic Federation Hall of Fame. Joe's candidacy was previously considered favorably by the Hall of Fame Committee but was not brought before the CPAF Board for lack of specifics. Laurel Robinson, Hall of Fame Chairperson, is not attending the January meeting due to a previous commitment. However, I spoke with her on the 6th of January and she still supports Joe's candidacy. Recent contacts between Joe and Bob Burke added to our knowledge of his history with the Federation as well as his history of supporting sports.

Joe Mollo served on the San Francisco Police Department from February 1966 to June 1993. He was assigned to the position of Athletic Director from 1967 to 1990. He brought a department team to the first California Police Olympics in 1967. Following the games in October, 1967, Joe played a major role in the forming of the California Police Athletic Federation along with Bob Burke, myself and others, and served as a director until 1997, coordinating sports in Martial Arts, Wrestling and Boxing.

Joe was personally involved in the sports of Judo and Wrestling where he won numerous medals. During his active years, Joe was responsible for hosting the State games in 1971 and 1982. He hosted the first International Police Olympics in 1974. At his department level, Joe created the department's PAL program in 1966, a program that exists to this day. His work with youth was unexcelled. During his service, he hosted the Judo event for the Junior National's at the Cow Palace in San Francisco and the U.S. National Championships at San Francisco University. Among other programs Joe introduced were a Judo Invitational for area servicemen, former Olympians and police officers; a Judo training and competition for the Blind Olympics and raised \$10,000 for their program; and, a Boxing program between Russian and New York City police officers, supplemented by boxers from the Los Angeles Sheriff's and Police Departments. He also trained FBI, DEA and Fort Ord security officers

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in the Martial Arts and for a time hosted and competed in a series of Friday night Wrestling competitions.

Joe has been a staunch supporter of the Games and volunteered to host the Games when other bidders failed to materialize. He was also an outstanding athlete and, during his years as the Athletic Director for the SFPD, never failed to head up a department team to compete in the "State" Games.

We strongly recommend that the Board approve his candidacy to the Hall of Fame for 2012

Respectfully Submitted By,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Duke Nyhus".

Duke Nyhus
Executive Director, Retired