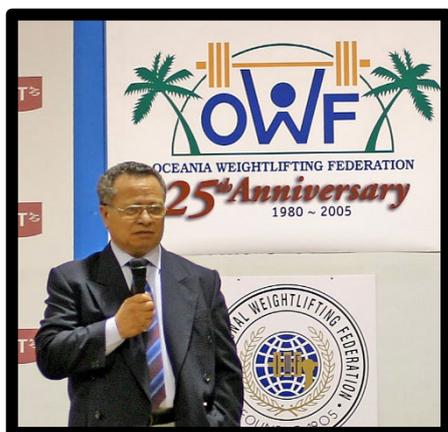


A TRIBUTE TO SEIULI PAUL WALLWORK 1942- 2024



It was a very sad day the 14th March, a sad day for the Wallwork family in Samoa and a very sad day for the weightlifting fraternity in the Oceania region. Seiuli Paul Wallwork, past OWF President, passed away peacefully in his home in Apia- Samoa.

A State Funeral was held for Paul on Friday, 22nd March, in Apia. With the OWF General Secretary attending and representing the Oceania and Commonwealth Weightlifting Federations.

Seiuli Paul Wallwork in his younger days was a superb weightlifter. He started weightlifting in New Zealand whilst trying to recuperate from a serious neck injury which he sustained playing rugby. During his recovery period he did weightlifting in order to strengthen his muscles around the neck and shoulders. Once he moved to Sydney, Australia with his wife Julia Wallwork in the early 1970's, he took on the sport seriously.

Seiuli was very determined and a great believer in education. He attended Sydney University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts. Whilst in Sydney, he joined the Burwood Police Boys Club and was coached by the late police Sergeant Bruce Walsh.

Seiuli was nicknamed the GLADIATOR because of his superb physique. He was one of the first lifters to train twice a day. He was highly respected by everyone in the sport of weightlifting in Australia. Paul went on representing Samoa at the 1974 Commonwealth Games winning a silver medal for Samoa becoming the first Samoan ever to win a medal at a Commonwealth Games in any sport. He continued his lifting career in the region by going on to win gold medals at Pacific Games.

Once he finished his lifting career, he became the Permanent Secretary of the Samoan, Department of Youth, Sport and Cultural Affairs.

He held the position of national coach of weightlifting from 1965 to 1990. Seiuli was also the national rugby coach of Manu Samoa from 1982 to 1987. Seiuli held many other positions in sport over the years. He was President of the Samoa National Olympic Committee from 1980 to 1999. President of the Pacific Games Council from 1991 to 1995. Member of the IOC from 1988 to 1999. President of the Samoa Rugby League.



And in recognition of his lifetime dedication to sports and service to Samoa, Seiuli Paul Wallwork was awarded with the prestigious Member of the Samoa Order of Merit in 2014.

In 1980 Seiuli Paul Wallwork, together with the International Weightlifting Federation, was instrumental in creating the Oceania Weightlifting Federation in Melbourne, and would become an Executive Board Member in that year.

He served as a member of the Executive Board of the OWF from 1980 to 1992. Then in 1992 in Auckland, he was elected President of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation. He also became an Executive Board Member of the International Weightlifting Federation from 1992 to 2008. In those 16 years under his Presidency, there was an enormous amount

Seiuli Paul with members of the IWF/OWF in Apia 2007

of development in Oceania. Under his leadership, women championships were implemented in Oceania. Junior and Youth Championships were established. Major events were staged. The last one during his career as President of the OWF, was the 2008 World Cup in Samoa, where world records were set by Chinese lifters. First ever world records broken in the Pacific.

Seiuli Paul Wallwork was inducted into the IWF Hall of Fame and was bestowed many other prestigious awards, not only in weightlifting but in rugby, boxing, athletics, taekwondo and other sports.

In the words of Albert EinsteinThe value of a man should be seen in what he gives and not in what he is able to receive. In one word Paul Wallwork was a man who gave.



Seiuli Paul Wallwork with Paul Coffa. President and General Secretary of the Oceania Weightlifting federation 1992-2008

Seiuli Paul Wallwork will always be remembered. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Photos of his funeral held in Apia-Samoa on Friday 22nd of March.



The Head of State Afioga Tuimaleali'ifano Tuaopepe Asiata Jerry Wallwork Vaaletoa Sualauvi II attending the funeral.



Tuaopepe Asiata Jerry Wallwork delivering eulogy for his father.



The Samoan Prime Minister Fiame Naomi Mata'Afa delivering a eulogy on behalf of the Government of Samoa.



Samoa Police force carrying the casket.



Su'a Julia Wallwork with her children. From left Hellene, Jerry and Hannah.



The Church service was held at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Lalovaea.



Front Page of the Samoa Observer Newspaper.