

Biography

Dr. Stuart E. Kirschenbaum served under three different Governors as the Chairperson (State Boxing Commissioner) of the Michigan Athletic Board of Control. He served in this position for 11 years, the second longest tenure in State history. Kirschenbaum was instrumental in the establishment of federal regulations for boxing, having testified two different times at Congressional hearings in Washington D.C. He was at the time, one of the leading candidates for the position of Federal Boxing Commissioner, until such legislation was defeated in Congress. He co-founded the Association of Boxing Commissions, which today sets standards and regulates all state boxing commissions.

Some of the quotes about his tenure as Boxing Commissioner... "Kirschenbaum gave the sport what it needed...direction. He has given the sport solid, authoritative leadership" said Mike O'Hara of the Detroit News. Jim Evans of the Daily Tribune said "Kirschenbaum brought illumination...He brought honesty and decency and professionalism...and most importantly, he brought compassion...The sport is worse off without Kirschenbaum and so too are the boxers...they lost a friend." Rebekah Brown of the Detroit News said "Michigan Boxing Commissioner Stuart Kirschenbaum was a good guy who gave insight...he just cared. He received...nothing but satisfaction." David Mayo of the Grand Rapids Press declared "The Athletic Board of Control never had a more powerful chairman than Kirschenbaum...Michigan boxing governance in the last quarter-century fits neatly into two categories: the Kirschenbaum era, and the post Kirschenbaum era." Harold Lederman, HBO Sports Boxing Commentator said "Dr. Stuart Kirschenbaum was there for eleven years as chairman, and was regarded as one of the most respected regulators in all of boxing...was on top of everything in the State, and gave his whole life to make sure things were done right in Michigan." Finally, George Puscas of the Detroit Free Press called Dr. Stuart Kirschenbaum "the best boxing commissioner this state ever had...Nobody in Michigan, and nobody in his time nationally handled a boxing commissioner's job with the devotion, intelligence and effectiveness of Kirschenbaum."

Kirschenbaum was an outstanding amateur boxer, having been a medal winner in the New York Golden Gloves light heavyweight division, 1967. He also achieved stature as a boxing judge for the State of Michigan and numerous world sanctioning organizations, Kirschenbaum judged over a dozen world championships and was voted one of the top five officials in the world four times by a prestigious boxing publication.

Dr. Kirschenbaum serves on the Board of Directors of five different sports halls of fame. He served as President of the Michigan Jewish Sports Hall of Fame (Michigan Jewish Sports Foundation)...Vice President of the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame...the first non African American to serve as a Director on the Board on the International Afro American Sports Hall of Fame (and in 1991 was honored with their Distinguished Service Award)...and is a member of the Advisory Board of the Athletes with Disabilities Hall of Fame. In 2007 he founded and serves as President of the Michigan Boxing Hall of Fame.

Dr. Kirschenbaum and United States Senator Carl Levin of Michigan were driving forces behind the City of Detroit being presented with the actual glove that Joe Louis used to knock out Max Schmeling in 1938. This historic symbol sits showcased in a memorial presented by the Michigan Jewish Sports Foundation at Cobo Convention Center, Detroit.

By challenging the establishment and fighting for the induction of boxing legend, Sugar Ray Robinson, Kirschenbaum forced the reorganization of the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame and won for Robinson his rightful place as a member of the Hall in 1991. Robinson died prior to his induction. And Kirschenbaum alone raised funds so that his widow Millie could travel from Los Angeles to Detroit to accept this overdo honor in his behalf.

Kirschenbaum publicly denounced a Michigan boxing judge associated with neo-Nazi activities in a true show of his intolerance towards prejudice. Kirschenbaum organized a boycott against this person judging a major boxing show in Michigan, contrary to State officials' approval, forcing the resignation of this boxing official while jeopardizing Kirschenbaum's position as Commissioner.

Kirschenbaum who was tagged by the press as "The Patron Saint of Detroit Boxing", has shown tremendous dedication to boxers and their plight in life. He spearheaded a counseling project to help boxers with drug and legal problems. He has appeared numerous times before the Michigan Department of Corrections to represent boxers who have encountered life challenging crises.

When Martha Louis, the widow of Joe Louis, became ill and forgotten in a metro Detroit nursing home, it was Kirschenbaum who assumed the role of guardian for the late champ's wife and created the Martha Louis: World Boxing Council Helping Hands Fund, to raise contributions to pay her medical and personal obligations. Kirschenbaum used the remaining assets of the fund to pay for Martha Louis's funeral in Detroit and for the final arrangements for her to be laid to rest next to her husband, Joe Louis, in Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1993, Sports Illustrated and the Detroit Institute of Arts honored Dr. Kirschenbaum as the sixth recipient of the prestigious Joe Louis Award for recognition of his humanitarian efforts in the spirit of Joe Louis.

According to the U.S. Postal Service, Kirschenbaum is the only person to have officiated at the unveiling of two postal stamps. On June 22, 1993, he unveiled the 29 cent stamp honoring Joe Louis at the Joe Louis Arena; Detroit...on July 16, 2006, at Comerica Park Kirschenbaum unveiled the 39 cent stamp honoring Hank Greenberg.

In 1997, Dr. Kirschenbaum donated the only public statue of Muhammad Ali to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, located in the city of Detroit. Kirschenbaum demonstrated his commitment to the citizens of Detroit and the State of Michigan by selecting this museum above others for the display of this magnificent 9 foot sculpture.

Kirschenbaum has devoted his entire professional career of 39 years to serving the health needs of the citizens of the inner city of Detroit and has led many causes for fairness and equality in the African American community. The State of Michigan State Legislature honored Kirschenbaum with House Resolution No. 978, June 25, 1992. The Detroit Council twice honored Kirschenbaum with a Testimonial Resolution October 2, 1983 and again on April 16, 1997. The County of Wayne, Michigan, honored Kirschenbaum with a Resolution on April 3, 1997.

