

Tribute to USACUA Umpire and Chaplain, Jerry A. Kishun

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Mrs. Kishun, members of the Kishun's family, fellow umpires, ladies and gentlemen, it is with deep sorrow and regret that I stand before you as the President of USA Cricket Umpires Association and the Regional Vice President of the West Indies Cricket Umpires Association, at this solemn occasion to pay our final farewell and respects to an exemplary husband, father, cricket umpire and friend. President Fletcher and the Executive Council and members of the West Indies Cricket Umpires Association have asked me to convey condolences on their behalf.

Jerry, as he is well known within the cricketing fraternity, has been a conscientious, dedicated and well-disciplined individual. He performed his duties on the cricket field without fear and favor. Jerry will always be remembered as one of the most distinguished cricket umpires who have graced the United States of America.

Please permit me on behalf of all of the cricket umpires locally and across the West Indies to thank his wife and children for allowing Jerry to be part of our cricket umpiring fraternity. It can be very troubling on a family to let a husband and father of the caliber of Jerry to go out every weekend during the spring and summer months to perform the duties as an umpire. Not only did he do duties on behalf of all our leagues, but he provided service to the Association on behalf to NYC Department of Education Public School Athletic League high school cricket program.

My exhortation here today would not be complete if I do not, on behalf of the cricketing circle, express our sincere and heart felt gratitude to Jerry and his family for the unconditional services that he provided over the years. He did in all. As "[Sam Soopersaud](#)" stated in his article on [newyorketcricquet.com](#), "that after his playing days he wanted to give back to the game which had given him so much". He became a cricket umpire.

His buddy Umpire Mohamed Baksh reminded me that Jerry initiated his umpiring career in the county of Berbice, in his native Guyana in the 1960s. He rose up among the ranks and became one of the most respected umpires in Berbice, where he officiated in their first division cricket. In Guyana, he was an integral part of the cricket community. The Umpires Association in Guyana could depend on Jerry to willingly and professionally execute any assignment that was entrusted to him. Amongst his sterling contribution to cricket umpiring in Guyana and the United States was his respect and observance of adherence to time. He could be depended upon to be always on time for any undertaking.

Jerry, having successfully completed the West Indian certification, academically, practically and orally was fully accredited to officiate any level of cricket locally and internationally. In addition to these achievements he was amongst the early founder members of the United States of America Cricket Umpires Association. He was one of the spirited leaders of our group in the tri-state areas, and served until his passing, as the Chaplain for the Association. Prior to this he was once the treasurer. He performed his duties with distinction and a sense of purpose. He always seemed to be at peace with himself.

He was one of the few umpires in the USA who could have been called upon at any time and even at short notice to officiate in any game regardless of the level. Jerry had always been an unselfish individual. Over our years of association, I have never heard Jerry refusing to assist anyone. He gave of his knowledge and time freely, never looking for any reward other than the development of the questioner. This is a trait that exemplifies the generosity of Jerry.

When someone passes on he is on most occasions referred to as the late so and so. I know within the cricketing community that Jerry will always be remembered not as the late Jerry Kishun but the evergreen, pleasant, helpful and effervescent Jerry. My

friend and colleague, Jerry you will always hold a special place in the heart of all of us. You will be the pinnacle that all would aspire to.

The United States of America Cricket Umpires Association has lost one of its stalwarts, but the entire cricket fraternity has lost a “giant in his own right”. ICC Test Umpire Billy Doctrove in his tribute to this humble man said it all and I will paraphrase him in this respect. He said “The Lord is having his own tournament in heaven and he needs some good umpires on his team”. His faith in God and his dedication to service will make him a perfect candidate to be on the team of Our Almighty God.

On behalf of both the West Indies Cricket Umpires Association and the United States of America Cricket Umpires Association, and with a very saddened and heavy heart I would like to extend to Jerry’s wife, children, extended family and friends our most sincere and heartfelt condolences. Jerry is in good hand and during this difficult period do know that you have our utmost support.

Live on my friend, and May his soul rest in peace with God’s blessing.