

2002 Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame Class of Inductees

Baaron Pittenger

A respected national and international sports leader, Baaron Pittenger began his association with the United States Olympic Committee in 1977 when he joined the organization as Director of Special Events. In addition to working closely with Colonel F. Don Miller in establishing a presence for the U.S. Olympic Committee in Colorado Springs, Pittenger led the effort to create the National Sports Festival -- which would later become the U.S. Olympic Festival. The first two National Sports Festivals were held in Colorado Springs in 1978 and 1979. The event returned to the Pikes Peak region in 1983 and, in 1995, Colorado Springs shared host duties for the U.S. Olympic Festival with Denver and Boulder.

Pittenger was the Assistant Executive Director of the U.S. Olympic Committee from 1981-87 and, from 1988-90, served as the organization's Executive Director. In June of 1990, Pittenger took on a new role as Executive Director of USA Hockey - a post he held until 1993.

Recognized worldwide for his leadership, expertise and commitment to the elimination of doping in sport, Pittenger was instrumental in the formation of the United States Anti-Doping Agency and continues to serve the organization as a Special Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer.

In 1992, Pittenger was awarded the prestigious Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee.

Pittenger, 77, and his wife, Anne, continue to reside in Colorado Springs.