



In Memoriam
Nancy Pearce Jeffett

July 16, 1928 - July 6, 2017

Nancy P. Jeffett, an impactful tennis industry leader who was instrumental in advancing women's professional tennis and in developing opportunities for promising junior players, passed away peacefully on July 6. Jeffett was 88 years old. In recognition of her immense contributions to growing the sport, Jeffett was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2015.

In 1968, Jeffett joined forces with her good friend Maureen Connolly Brinker, a recently retired nine-time Grand Slam singles champion, to co-found the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation (MCB). The goal of MCB was to build junior tennis programming by engaging more children with the sport, especially those from lower socio-economic backgrounds, and to create opportunities for talented young players.

Following Brinker's death in 1969, Jeffett became one of the first female tennis promoters in the sport when she staged the inaugural Maureen Connolly Brinker Memorial Tournament in 1970. In 1972, in addition to having the first-ever telecast, it became the first tournament to award prize money to its winners. The tournament evolved to become the Virginia Slims of Dallas, one of the most popular and important events in the early years of the Women's Tennis Association Tour.

Jeffett continued to spearhead MCB as it expanded to include numerous international junior competitions in the United States, Great Britain and Australia. Opportunities were provided for gifted young players to gain competitive experience through these events.

In addition to her work with MCB and the Virginia Slims, Jeffett served the sport in numerous capacities with the USTA, Fed Cup and Wightman Cup. She received the prestigious USTA Service Bowl, Golden Achievement Award (given jointly by the International Tennis Hall of Fame and the International Tennis Federation) and was an honorary member of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club. Jeffett's remarkable legacy will continue through MCB's internationally respected tournaments and programs.

A special note from Cindy Brinker Simmons and the MCB Foundation:

Nancy Jeffett's and Mom's enduring friendship and love for tennis created a remarkable and impactful junior tennis foundation in 1968. Today, almost 50 years later, the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation (MCB) continues to further junior tennis nationally and internationally through elite competition. Nancy truly mastered the skill of living with her amazing talents, energy and intelligence. Her contributions to the sport of tennis in general and to MCB specifically were pioneering, vast and influential. As part of MCB's expansion, Nancy established TCD in 1977, which today remains a distinguished national model in league tennis with over 7,500 members. Nancy also demonstrated the beauty of loyalty by perpetuating Mom's legacy to inspire the young tennis champions who participated in our tournaments so that they would understand that tennis was more than just a game...it was a platform to display strength of character, humility, kindness, and sportsmanship. Nancy will be greatly missed.



Nancy Jeffett (left) and Maureen Connolly Brinker (right) stand in front of the Davis Cup trophy when the competition was held in Dallas in 1963.