

10th July 2021

World Netball Congress 2021

Service Award Citation



Citation for Hon. Molly Rhone OJ, CD, LLD (HON)

Jamaica Netball

The Hon. Molly RHONE OJ, CD, LLD (HON) was President of the International Netball Federation (INF) from 2003 until 2019. When she was elected, Molly made sporting history that year as she became the first and only Jamaican female to head an international sporting body and she is the longest serving President to date. She had already served as INF Vice President from 1999 to 2003.

In 2003 she was responsible for the bidding, planning, organisation and successful hosting of the eleventh World Netball Championships held in Jamaica.

A former international player, Molly represented Jamaica at Under 21 and Under 23 levels and was the vice-captain of the national team at the World Netball Championships in 1975.

Molly was a former President of the Jamaica Netball Association (JNA) for ten years, leading them during the hosting of the 2003 World Netball Championships. Molly also served as President of the Americas Association of Netball Associations (AFNA).

In addition to receiving the National Honours – Order of Distinction (OD) in 1999, Commander of the Order of Distinction (CD) in 2007 and Order of Jamaica (OJ) in 2011– Molly has received numerous other awards as a sports administrator and for her work in netball. They include the Gleaner Honour Award for the success of the 2003 World Netball Championships. In Canada, she obtained certificates from the Ontario government for her contribution to sport in 1971, 1972 and 1973. In 2019 Molly was awarded an Honorary Degree by the University of Technology, Jamaica.

Molly is highly respected across international sport and is a sitting Director of the Sports Development Foundation in Jamaica. In May 2013, Molly was elected to the Board of ARISF, the Association of IOC Recognised International Sports Federations, a post she held until her Presidency of the INF ended in 2019. Molly also served as a member of the IOC Sport and Active Society Commission and the FIFA Governance Committee.

Our heartfelt thanks go to you Molly, on behalf of Members, netballers, officials and fans around the world to extend our gratitude for what you have done for netball. You have always had time for the athletes in netball – especially the young girls you met as you travelled the world with netball. With a lifetime of dedication and your passion you are a guiding light for our sport and for all of the people who follow in your trailblazing footsteps. Your leadership, courage, integrity and vision have shaped our netball world.