

FAMOUS PEOPLE

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An abbreviated list of famous people who used the Y

Millions of children have learned to swim at the Y.

One was Janet Evans, who won three gold medals in the '88 Olympics and was amateur athlete of the year for '89.

Mark Spitz learned to swim at the Sacramento YMCA in 1958.

Greg Louganis was another who learned at the Y.

John Naber, multi-gold winner.

Another was Ronald Reagan, who learned lifesaving and played the drum in the band at the Dixon (Ill.) YMCA.

Millions of children have benefited from youth sports at the YMCA.

Wilt Chamberlain was one. When he was 16, he was on the national YMCA champion men's team.

Frank Robinson was another. When bad weather forced him off the baseball diamond, he was in the Y playing basketball.

George Bush played basketball at the Y as a young man (and later helped start the Y in Midland, Texas).

Christian Laettner of Duke, the Dream Team, and the Atlanta Hawks, and Cliff Robinson of the Portland Trailblazers were on the same Y basketball team.

Curly Neal of Harlem Globetrotter fame learned to play basketball at the YMCA.

Millions of kids have grown up at the YMCA.

Ezzard Charles, former heavyweight boxing champion, was one.

Aaron Spelling, TV producer, said the Y was his one escape from the streets; the chance to be part of something—the family of the Y.

The Rev. Andrew Young, former UN ambassador and mayor of Atlanta.

Bob Newhart said it was a "very important part of my childhood."

Art Linkletter

Phyllis Diller

Thurman Thomas, NFL running back

Connie Hawkins, now in basketball Hall of Fame

Senator Bob Kerrey's Y youth program leader said Kerrey was a "YMCA rat" growing up.

Vic Mitchell, world-class bridge player, was taken to the Brooklyn YMCA by a policeman.

Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer said that the San Francisco YMCA's Youth and Government program was an important influence in his life.

Darrul Singley, NFL player and "self-described 'product of the YMCA system'"

Millions have benefited from camp, school, working out, and working at the YMCA.

Clay Aiken (Finalist on "American Idol")

Tony Hawk (Skateboarder)

Tony Granato (Hockey Coach)

Todd MacCulloch (Basketball Player)

Harry Connick Jr.

Oswald Chambers (YMCA Chaplain and "spiritual inspiration" to George W. Bush)

Carlos Pena (Baseball Player)

Richard Greenwood (Violinist)

David Thompson (NC Basketball Player)

Cornelius Muller (basketball player/actor)

Dirk Been ("Survivor" participant)

Wally Hagin (African-American Photographer)

Bill Clinton

Roy Campanella

Jackie Robinson

Tommy Lasorda

Rocky Marciano

Peter Ueberroth

Reggie Williams (football player, politician, WLAF exec)

Jack Kemp

Tom Foley (ex-Speaker of the House)

Norman Thomas (Christian socialist)

Vachel Lindsay (popular poet)

Mike Royko
Garrison Keillor
The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Roger Mudd
Herb Alpert
Richard Wilbur, former poet laureate of U.S.
Michael Landon
Derek Bok, former president of Harvard
Thad Cochran (Senator)
Neil Goldschmidt, former governor of Oregon
Senator Inouye of Hawaii
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Bart Conner, Olympic gold medal winner in gymnastics
Emery Moorehead, former Chicago Bears football player
Amanda Jones, former Miss USA
Rep. John Porter
Charles Percy, former senator from Illinois
Erwin Griswold, former Harvard Law dean and Solicitor General
Richard Celeste, former governor of Ohio
Lennox Lewis, former heavyweight champion boxer
Anthony Hopkins played one of his first parts in "Othello" at his local YMCA
Tim Allen

Staying at the Y

Andy Rooney
Frederick Exley, award-winning author whose autobiographical novels include the Y
Claude McKay, poet, leading contributor to Harlem Renaissance
Malcolm X (when he was Malcolm Little)
Jack Kerouac
Dave Thomas (owner of Wendy's restaurants)
Bill Blass (Fashion Designer)
Bob Crane (actor)
Sidney Sheldon (Author, Screenwriter)

Vernon Alley (Jazz Musician)

Parents/children

John/Sean Lennon

Volunteers

Walt Whitman (during the Civil War)

Ernie Banks

Steve Owens, Heisman Trophy winner

Lorado Taft (sculptor)