

Roz Bell King

Class of 2019



Roz graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1956, was a member of the California Scholastic Federation (CSF) for three years and received a full scholarship to Kaiser School of Nursing. She played field hockey and was a member of the Girls Athletic Association (GAA). She was also head drum majorette for the OHS band and a member of the Latin Club as a junior and senior.

In 1959, Roz received her Registered Nurse (RN) degree from The Kaiser School of Nursing in San Diego, CA. In 1974, she earned her Nurse Practitioner degree and license at National University and was the only African-American woman in her training program. She was one of the early pioneers of the nurse practitioner profession. 1974 also saw Roz earn her BA/MBA degrees from National University. In 1995, she graduated from the Leadership Program at the University of Southern California (USC).

Roz's 31-year career with the Kaiser Medical Group (KMG) as an RN and administrator in various administrative positions culminated in 1998 when she retired. At one time, she was the Director of Primary Care Services, a program that spanned over a 100-mile radius and 18 medical offices in the San Diego area.

At age 45, Roz decided she wanted to take up tennis, and over the next 20 years became one of the top players in the world. Her win/loss record from 2003 to 2017 was 415 wins and 154 losses. During that time she played on seven World Cup teams in New Zealand, Australia twice, Turkey, Austria and Croatia. In 2017, she lost one match.

The year 2013 was a banner year for Roz as she was ranked Number One in the World International Tennis Federation (ITF) in both singles and doubles as well as #1 in the United States Tennis Association (USTA) for women age 75 or older. That year, Roz also won ITF titles including the European Senior Championship, World Team Championship, Queens Cup World Individual Championship, making her the #1 ranked player age 75 and over.

In 2014, Roz was inducted into the Southern California USTA Senior Hall of Fame and in 2015 won the Grand Slam of World Championships. 2017 saw her winning the USA Hard Court, the National Clay Court, and the National Indoor Championships, and ranking #1 in the United States. Later that year, she won the 80's Super-Seniors World Individual Championships, and played #1 position on the USA 80's Cup Team. She ended that year again ranked #1 in the world.

2016 was another big year for Roz as she won the European Championships and the Super Seniors Doris Hart Cup. The City of San Diego honored her by making October 29th officially known as Roz King Day. It was a remarkable year for her with numerous amazing accomplishments.

In 2018, Roz once again led all San Diego area players in gold balls with a win of five, the Grass and Clay singles and the 80 Hard Clay and Grass doubles. The USTA awards gold balls to players for playing on hard, indoor, clay or grass national championships.

Between tennis engagements, Roz finds time to serve her community receiving a mayoral appointment to the San Diego City Park and Recreation Board where she served six years, a board member of the San Diego District Tennis Association for 25 years, a member of the Neighborhood Planning Committee for 20 years and helps raise funds for keeping the area tennis courts in good repair.

Roz returned to her home town of Oroville in 2017, when the Oroville Wyandotte Academy Tennis Courts added her name to the courts dedicated to world legend tennis champions Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe. Roz commented, *“It is humbling, especially with Arthur Ashe and Althea Gibson, but you know its also still inspiring. It means that you gotta keep doing something to live up to that sign.”*

Roz also stated, *“We had the community support and love that inspired us to go do good things and be of service. Oroville is my roots. The best I could do is to be of service and I wanted to connect to the United States tennis Association with the school program.”*

Roz has one son who also plays tennis and attended Occidental College. She makes her home in San Diego.