

BWAA Acknowledges Death of Emile Griffith

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It is with great sadness and regret that the BWAA acknowledges the passing of former three-division champion and all-time great, Emile Griffith at age 75. Griffith died Tuesday in New York after suffering from recent health issues. The former champion, a member of the International Boxing Hall of Fame, retired with a record of 85-24-2 with 23 knockouts. He fought 10 world champions and boxed 339 title-fight rounds, more than any other fighter in history. He was a regular at Madison Square Garden, where he boxed 28 times. Of course, he also has history with our organization, winning the BWAA's "Fighter of the Year" award in 1963. He is credited with one of the wittier lines in boxing history, claiming that "a funny thing happened to me on the way here" the night he accepted his award. Griffith was making reference to being stopped by Rubin "Hurricane" Carter in one round between the time he was named the "Fighter of the Year" and when the dinner was held. Griffith had been a welcome and warm presence in New York boxing circles and a fixture at ringside, always eager to sign autographs, make jokes and take pictures with fans and media members alike. The thoughts and condolences of the BWAA are with his family.

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