

TERRY MIDDLETON'S BOXING

Est. 1972

117 E. Market Street New Albany, IN 47150

www.terrymiddletons.com



Jimmy Ellis, one of our Hometown Hero's, was a gentle and spiritual man that just happened to be one of Louisville's four Heavyweight Champions, (Marvin Hart 1905, Muhammed Ali 1964, 1974, 1978, Jimmy Ellis 1968, and Greg Page 1984). Incidentally, Louisville is the first and only other city in the world with four Heavyweight Boxing Champions.

Jimmy was born February 24, 1940 in Louisville and lived in the Smoketown neighborhood. He was the son of Elizabeth and Walter Ellis, the Pastor at Riverview Baptist Church. Jimmy sang in the choir and had his own spiritual singing group.

Jimmy's boxing career began when he watched a friend lose to Cassius Clay (Ali) at a "Tomorrows Champions" program in the late 1950's. He immediately joined the Columbia Gym where (Ali) trained, under the supervision of Joe Martin. Jimmy and (Ali) became friends, sparring partners, and competitors. They were connected forever! They met twice in amateur bouts with each one winning once. As friends and foes, they continued to help each other succeed.

Ali lost the Heavyweight Title in 1967, and ironically, Jimmy won a six man tournament designed to crown the next Heavyweight World Champion in 1968. He defended against two time World champion, Floyd Patterson, but lost the title to Joe Frazier in 1970. Jimmy continued to win bouts and met Ali in Houston, Texas in a 1971 pro bout. Jimmy stayed in the ring until 1975 when he retired after a sparring injury.

After his boxing career, Jimmy continued his love for boxing through training others. Jimmy coached James Prichard to the World Cruiserweight Title in 1991 training at Terry Middleton's Gym in New Albany. Jimmy later worked at Louisville Metro Parks managing the Athletic and Recreation Programs from 1988 to 2003.

Sadly, we lost Jimmy on May 6, 2014. Jimmy was our Hometown Hero that served his community and shined the light on our beloved city.