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## Major League Player and Children's Sports Mentor Alvin McBean Dies at 85

**He “left an indelible mark on generations of aspiring athletes,” said Governor Albert Bryan Jr., after learning of Mr. McBean’s passing**

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### **Alvin McBean.**

Alvin McBean, a prominent figure in the world of professional baseball and a dedicated public servant in the Virgin Islands, passed away on January 31.

Born on May 15, 1938, in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, McBean's unexpected journey from photojournalism to a celebrated baseball career has left a lasting impact on the sporting community.

McBean, originally a photojournalist, was 19 years old when he attended the Pittsburgh Pirates' 1957 tryouts in St. Thomas on a work assignment. Encouraged by friends, he put down his camera and tried out, leading to his recruitment by the Pirates the following year.

Making his major league debut in July 1961, McBean quickly established himself, becoming a starting pitcher for the Pirates by 1962. He gained further acclaim as a relief pitcher, highlighted by his selection for the National League Latino All-Stars and being named The Sporting News' NL Fireman of the Year in 1964.

In the 1968 MLB Expansion draft, McBean was selected by the San Diego Padres, briefly played for the Dodgers, and then returned to Pittsburgh. He ended his professional playing career with the Phillies in 1971.

Post-retirement, McBean turned his attention to the Virgin Islands' sporting community. Joining the Bureau of Recreation in 1973, he served until 2007, including a stint as Deputy Commissioner, significantly contributing to the development of local sports.

DSPR Commissioner Calvert White highlighted McBean's influence on youth sports. "Alvin McBean's commitment to not just Little League but all the children that traversed through the park named after him leaves an indelible mark, and his legacy will continue to inspire us all," White remarked.

Governor Albert Bryan Jr. also praised McBean's contributions. For 34 dedicated years, Alvin McBean served as a valued employee of what was then known as the Bureau of Recreation, now recognized as the Department of Sports Parks and Recreation. His dedication and passion for the development of sports and recreation in our islands were truly commendable, and his legacy within the department will continue to inspire future generations.

McBean's legacy is a testament to his passion for sports and public service, making him a celebrated figure in both the professional baseball world and in nurturing young talent in the Virgin Islands.