



*HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
ALBERT*

*ALBERT  
Turns 90  
Mon, 2/11/19*

**Albert Azaryan** (Armenian) (born **February 11, 1929**) is a former Soviet Armenian artistic gymnast who competed internationally representing the Soviet Union. He is the **1956** and **1960 Olympic Champion** on the **still rings**. Azaryan is the first ever gymnast to become an Olympic Champion in Rings twice, a feat that Akinori Nakayama would accomplish twelve years later and that no one else has matched ever since.

He is the first person to do one of the rings most famous variations of the Iron Cross called the **Azaryan Cross** (not to be confused with the Azarian Roll to Cross), which incorporates a quarter turn to the side.

An artistic gymnastics tournament, the **Albert Azaryan Cup**, is named after Azaryan and hosted in Yerevan, Armenia.

Azaryan was voted the top Armenian athlete of the 20th century by journalists from the Armenian Sport Journalists Federation.

Albert has two daughters and one son with his wife. Neither of his daughters followed in his footsteps, but his son, **Eduard Azarian**, also became a successful international gymnast. Albert was the coach of Eduard throughout his career. Eduard was a 1980 Olympian, where he competed in every event and won a **gold medal** in the men's artistic **team all-around**.

In honor of Azaryan, a **stamp** was printed of him in Armenia in 2009.

*"On that famous day in December 1956, the spectators at the Olympic Games leapt from their seats with one bound to acclaim a gymnast had just achieved an act of gymnastics prowess never before seen. Suspended from the rings, Albert Azaryan rose slowly into the air, separating his powerful arms with ease, a smile on his face, and all of a sudden performed that **famous cross with a quarter turn**, first to the right and then to the left!"*

