WELCOME TO #TEAMBOSTON2024!

Summer Issue 2015
Dear Olympians and Paralympians,

Recently, Carrie Zimmerman, President of the USOPA Florida Chapter, and I attended the United Nations Summit on Sport and Youth Leadership in Bradenton, Florida, along with 7 other Olympians and Paralympians. The event was also a celebration of Olympic Day 2015. The Summit meeting was inspiring and encouraging, yet sobering.

When one reads the statistics about children participating in sports, it is easy to get discouraged. According to data from the Sport and Fitness Industry Association and the report of Project Play of the Aspen Institute, since 2008 there are nearly one million less children participating in sports today.

I wish I had the answers now how to reverse this trend in America. I don’t. I do know this, however. We must all try…particularly since we are Olympians and Paralympians. We have more impact, more influence, more pull on children than nearly all others. It is time for each of us to get involved.

We have some wonderful Olympian programs, such as Classroom Champions, “Ready, Set, Gold!” and World Fit, but all suffer from insufficient funding and cannot grow fast enough. Olympic Day is growing quickly and all of us should register and speak at an event near us. In fact, we should seek every opportunity we can to speak to youth, whether Olympic related programs or not. Somehow, we have to reach children about the importance of sports, both for health and character development. We must promote the Olympic ideals to all that will listen to us.

The encouragement from the UN Summit meeting came from seeing and hearing the youth leaders representing 34 different countries around the world. They understand the issue and are committed to making their communities stronger and better. They bring hope to the next generation.
Much of the inspiration came from hearing Paralympian April Holmes speak. She delivered her incredible story of trauma, faith, commitment, and perseverance that ultimately led her to Paralympic gold. It was a goosebump speech that left everyone in the audience in awe. It left me with a desire to do more.

I believe every single Olympian and Paralympian can deliver an inspiring message to children; one that can change their lives forever. We just need to do it. Take the initiative on your own to find an organization or school that will allow you to inspire. Don’t wait for us.

Finally, if you feel like you need a little more motivation yourself, plan on attending our 2016 Reunion in February in Las Vegas. You can register online at www.teamusa.org/usopa. Our goal is to have at least 500 members attend, so we need you there! I promise it will be a great weekend, co-chaired by Olympians Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf and Lt. Governor Brian Krolicki. Please come and register soon.

Yours in Olympic spirit,

Gary Hall, Sr., President
U. S. Olympians and Paralympians Association
Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh addresses the media during a press conference to announce Boston as the U.S. applicant city to host the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center on January 9, 2015 in Boston, Massachusetts. (Photo by Maddie Meyer/Getty Images for the USOC)
By Amy Rosewater

Sleep? Overrated.

Paralympian Cheri Blauwet uses all her waking hours toward helping Boston win the bid for 2024 Games

Growing up in a farming family in Larchwood, Iowa, a town of fewer than 900 people in the northwest portion of the state not far from the South Dakota border, Cheri Blauwet did not consider pursuing an athletic career for the first 13 years of her life.

It wasn’t that she didn’t like sports. It’s just that she thought of herself — someone who injured her spinal cord when she was just 16 months old — and did not think she could be an athlete. It was hard to blame her, since she never saw anyone else try it or even see disabled athletes compete on TV.

“Basically, I didn’t have any role models,” Blauwet said. “I was from the middle part of the country, and it’s pretty hard to have a dream about something if you don’t know it exists.”

So Blauwet got involved in various other school programs, such as band and choir, and was pretty content with those choices.

That is until her school’s track coach, Jay Rozeboom, approached her about wheelchair racing. At first, Blauwet said, she wanted no part of it. Rozeboom, she said, pretty much had to cajole, beg and plead for her to join the team.

His efforts finally paid off, and Blauwet, who went on to become one of the more accomplished Paralympic athletes, is forever grateful for what he started.

“It took some time for me to embrace it,” Blauwet said with a laugh.

Sleep? Overrated.

Paralympian Cheri Blauwet uses all her awake hours toward helping Boston win the bid for 2024 Games

These days, however, Blauwet is pretty happy she caved. Joining the school’s team, and later a local wheelchair racing team, helped her achieve goals she never knew existed — she represented Team USA in three Paralympic Games (2000, 2004, 2008) and won seven medals, and competed in the Olympic Games in 2004 in an exhibition event. She has won several major marathons as well, including two in Boston, two in New York and four in Los Angeles.

These days, in addition to being a physician at Harvard’s Medical School in the department of physical medicine and rehabilitation, Blauwet is on the board of directors and also serves as a co-chair of the Boston 2024 Olympic and Paralympic movement committee. Her overall goal is to help bring the Olympic and Paralympic Games to Boston and to be an advocate for the athletes who would compete in those Games.

“It is really, really amazing to think of little girls today in places like Iowa,” Blauwet said. “That spark has to start somewhere, and I understand how important that initial spark is.”

Tina Noyes, a two-time figure skating Olympian who served as the president of the New England Olympians for 30 years, has been impressed by Blauwet’s energy and presence from the start, and joked that “Cheri does enough for 10 people.”

In fact, when Blauwet was asked when she finds time to sleep, she emailed this reply: “Sleep? Overrated.”

Noyes said she made sure to attend a talk back in January to learn more about the Boston 2024 bid, and Blauwet was one of the featured speakers.

“There were about 300 people in the room but you could hear a pin drop,” Noyes said. “She embodies everything. She speaks from her own personal athletic experience and she understands the educational opportunities that would be available to athletes if they come to Boston and she’s involved in the medical side, too.”

“After the question and answer portion of the event, people were waiting in
line to talk to her. I could not think of a better spokesperson for the Olympic and Paralympic Games than Cheri. She speaks for everyone.”

Blauwet has made Boston her home since 2009 following medical school at Stanford and a fellowship at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. She had heard about efforts that Eric Reddy and Corey Dinopoulos were making to bring the Games to Boston back in 2013 but said she did not get involved with the bid committee until August 2014.

“That’s when I started to get really excited,” Blauwet said.

Blauwet, 35, was just 16 the last time the summer edition of the Olympic and Paralympic Games were held on American soil in Atlanta.

“I was just a teenager in Iowa watching the Games on TV,” Blauwet said. “The thing I remember most was there was a little TV in our kitchen and that’s where I watched most of it. I remember seeing multiple events, but there was very little publicity around the Paralympic Games. A lot has changed since then.”

Four years later, Blauwet was competing for the United States in Sydney. Then she was in Athens and then Beijing. She made three trips to the Paralympic Games but she never got to compete in her home country.

“When I was competing as a member of Team USA, I engaged with people and their cultures,” she said. “But I can’t imagine what it would be like to compete in my own country. For people who have supported you along the way and then be able to support you at this level ... wow ... that would be exciting.” She was in London in 2012, and there she said she witnessed “a whole nation empowered.”

“If we are fortunate to get the bid, we can use this as an opportunity to implement a very progressive strategy around promoting both the Olympic and Paralympic movements and using sports as a tool for youth empowerment,” Blauwet said.

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Blauwet said it is now her job to get the athletes to help share their stories and spread the word about the Olympic and Paralympic movements. She has been especially motivated that the Boston 2024 bid recently registered its 1,800th volunteer and plans for the Games are coming together.

“We firmly believe that Boston will be great for the Olympic Movement and the Olympic Movement will be great for Boston,” Blauwet said. “We see this as a win-win. We’re really excited to show the world what this city’s got.”

She knows it will be a challenge but said she and other Olympians and Paralympians have built their careers on overcoming difficult obstacles.

Said Blauwet: “As (Olympic rower) Dan Walsh said on a conference call recently, ‘Olympians weren’t born on Mount Olympus. They had to climb to the top.’ ”

Amy Rosewater is a freelance writer and editor who has covered five Olympic Games. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, ESPN.com and The Washington Post.
Larry Bird, Meb Keflezighi, Michelle Kwan, Jo Jo White, Aly Raisman, and Cheri Blauwet—five Olympians and a Paralympian—headline a roster of fresh faces now helping Boston 2024 move its bid campaign forward.

As Boston 2024 seeks to expand its influence within the city and the broader Olympic community—and ensure the interests of the athlete are front and center in every aspect of its plans—the bid committee has increased the total of Olympians and Paralympians on its Board of Directors to nine—or 30% of the total 30 members currently serving. Joining Anita DeFrantz, Angela Ruggiero and Whitney Ping, three Olympians who also serve on the USOC Board that selected Boston, are six legendary athletes with close connections to the Massachusetts capital.

In a basketball career filled with extraordinary highlights, NBA Hall of Famer Larry Bird said “the ultimate experience” came at the Barcelona 1992 Olympic Games, as he stood on the podium with Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan and the rest of the Dream Team—gold medals around their necks—watching the American flag rise as the national anthem played.

On April 21, 2014 as the Boston Marathon got underway—helping to move the city toward a major moment of healing one year after the nightmare bombing—Meb Keflezighi felt as if he were running for everyone in the city and the country. When he became the first American to win the race in 31 years, he also became one of Boston’s true sporting heroes.

In her brilliant figure skating career, Michelle Kwan won nine medals in world championship competitions, including five individual World Championship titles and two Olympic medals—silver in Nagano in 1998 and bronze in Salt Lake in 2002—making her the most successful international skater in American history. At the end of her career, when it was time for a professional transition, she came to Boston and earned her masters degree in international relations at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Before Joseph Henry “Jo Jo” White helped lead the Boston Celtics to two NBA titles, the seven-time NBA All Star was a standout at the University of
Kansas and helped lead the U.S. Olympic Team to gold at the 1968 Games in Mexico City, beating the highly favored Soviet team on the way to a 9-0 record.

Finally, two-time Olympic champion, three-time Olympic medalist Alexandra Rose “Aly” Raisman joins the board. Aly is an American gymnast from Boston. At the 2012 London Games, Aly was captain of the gold medal-winning U.S. women’s gymnastics team, and individually won a gold medal in the Floor Exercise and a bronze medal on the Balance Beam.

“Boston delivers an incredible athlete experience for every participant in every event they host,” said Blauwet, who is now a physician at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital and at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital as well as an Instructor in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Harvard Medical School.

Long before it was chosen as America’s bid city, Boston 2024 made a promise that Olympians, Paralympians and Boston sports legends would play a major role in shaping the city’s vision and plans for the Games. With Bird, Keflezighi, Kwan, Raisman, White, Blauwet, DeFrantz, Ruggiero and Ping on Board—along with Red Sox Baseball legend David Ortiz—Boston 2024 has kept that promise. These appointments reflect the bid’s strong commitment to ensure the athlete experience is front and center in every decision—and enhance its reputation as a sports-driven organization intent on achieving the USOC’s goal of bringing the Olympic and Paralympic Games back to the U.S. for the first time in 28 years.

“We are greatly honored to have such a diverse and talented group of Olympians and Paralympians on our Board,” said Rich Davey, Boston 2024 Chief Executive Officer. “By making time to give something back to a city they all love, this rare group of legendary athletes are not only helping America reach for its Olympic destiny, they’re inspiring all of us on the Boston team to ensure our plan reflects the excellence they’ve committed to throughout their careers.”

One of the leading issues in the Olympic Movement today is preparing Olympians and Paralympians for career transitions beyond sport—and this group brings a broad set of credentials to help meet that challenge. While Raisman, Keflezighi and Ortiz are still active athletes, the rest of the group are involved in professional sports leadership positions that are an outgrowth of their athletic careers, giving them a unique set of insights.

Michelle Kwan, who is currently a Senior Advisor for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs at the U.S. State Department and serves as a Member of the President’s Council on Physical Fitness & Sports, believes that Boston’s unrivaled concentration of colleges and universities put the bid committee in a unique position to help the Olympic Movement discover new solutions for athlete education and career transitions. “I’m very confident that with the level of enthusiasm Boston’s academic community has for our Olympic quest, we will have tremendous resources directed at responding to the Agenda 2020 challenges of enhancing the vital link between sport and education.”

As Boston 2024 finalizes its plans and begins to articulate the specifics of its athlete experience, it is going to be exciting to listen as this great line up of Olympic and Paralympic legends chimes in.

“Boston delivers an incredible athlete experience for every participant in every event they host,” said Blauwet, who is now a physician at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital and at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital as well as an Instructor in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Harvard Medical School. “I’ve competed in dozens of elite wheelchair races at the international level, and quite frankly, the embrace of the Boston community is one of the most inspiring experiences I’ve ever had. Boston and the Olympics are actually made for each other. With its intimate scale and walkable plan, this city can help take the Games—and the athlete experience—to the next level.”
Saving money is a serious business

As a member of US OLYMPIC COMMITTEE or TEAM USA you could be saving 18% on the monthly service charge of qualified wireless plans

In addition to the AT&T Sponsorship Program discount, you'll also enjoy these benefits:

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- Access to the nation's most reliable 4G LTE network.
- Share data on up to 10 devices and save with AT&T Mobile Share℠ Value Plans.
- AT&T Mobile Share℠ Value Plans also give you UNLIMITED talk & text for all phones in plan.

To purchase online, visit att.com/wireless/TEAMUSA

Or, to find a store closest to you, visit att.com/find-a-store

If you visit a local AT&T store, please have proof of eligibility (Employee badge, paystub or student ID).

Mention code: 40855

Sponsorship Program discounts: Monthly service discounts are available to qualified employees, students and other authorized individuals associated with eligible sponsoring organizations, such as companies and colleges/universities with a qualified business agreement ("Business Agreement"). Individuals must provide proof of eligibility (valid employee badge/student ID card, paystub or other approved validation method) and subscribe to service as Individual Responsibility Users (IRUs), taking personal liability for their accounts. Discounts are subject to the Business Agreement and may be terminated, changed or discontinued without notice to you. A minimum number of employees, minimum monthly service charge for qualified plans, additional AT&T services or other requirements may apply for eligibility. Under some Business Agreements, the discount can vary monthly depending on your organization's aggregate volume of qualified charges. Discounts apply only to the monthly service charge of qualified plans unless otherwise provided in your organization's Business Agreement. Discounts are not available with any unlimited voice plans. For Family Talk plans, discount will only apply to the primary line. For Mobile Share plans, discount applies only to the monthly service charge for the data allotment of eligible plans, not to the additional monthly device charges. Additional plan and other restrictions apply. Discounts may not be combined. Offer subject to change. If you have a question about available discounts and/or your eligibility, contact your organization's telecom manager or contact us at att.com/help. All other marks contained herein are the property of their respective owners. Services provided by AT&T Mobility LLC, subsidiary of AT&T Inc. All rights reserved. AT&T and the AT&T logo are trademarks of AT&T Intellectual Property.

1 Wi-Fi enabled devices required. Access includes Wi-Fi Basic. Other restrictions apply. See att.com/login for details and locations.

2 Reliability claim based on data transfer completion rates on nationwide 4G LTE networks. LTE is a trademark of Ericsson Inc. 4G LTE not available everywhere.

3 AT&T Mobile Share Value Plans (with Unlimited Domestic Talk and Text) Smartphone required. Up to ten (10) devices per plan. Additional monthly charge per device. Unlimited talk and text for phones only. If you are using a shared data plan without a Smartphone(s) on the account or you do not have all required elements of the plan, AT&T reserves the right to place the non-complying device on an appropriate plan(s). If you exceed the amount of data in your plan during your billing period, an additional 1GB is automatically provided as specified in your rate plan. Overage: Charges are billed to the primary line. All data allowances, including overages, must be used in the billing period in which the allowance is provided or they will be forfeited. Authorized users on the account may unknowingly exceed data usage for each device using the Shared Data Plan. Data access will be restored at the beginning of the next billing cycle. Monthly charges, however, will continue to apply. tethering and mobile hotspot use is permitted with up to five (5) simultaneous devices. Access to corporate email, internet and apps available for $15/mo per device. Additional monthly charge per device not eligible for discounts. Domestic use only. Activation fee may apply. Additional deposits and other restrictions may apply.
Four-time Olympian and IOC Member Angela Ruggiero joins WOA Executive Board

American Ice Hockey great Angela Ruggiero has joined the World Olympians Association (WOA) Executive Board as the IOC Athletes’ Commission Liaison. The Olympic Gold Medalist will replace the incumbent, Peter Tallberg, on an interim basis as the Finnish former sailor and five-time Olympian takes a temporary leave of absence from the post.

Ruggiero brings a wealth of experience to the role as both an athlete and an administrator. The Ice Hockey defender competed at four consecutive Olympic Games (Nagano 1998, Salt Lake City 2002, Turin 2006 and Vancouver 2010) where she picked up a Gold, two Silver and a Bronze medal. She is also a three-time World Championship Gold Medalist, seven-time Silver Medalist and holds the record of playing more games for Team USA than any other man or woman.

In 2010 Ruggiero became an IOC Member and joined the IOC Athletes’ Commission where she currently acts as Vice-Chair. She is a member of the Entourage Commission, the Evaluation then Coordination Commission for the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games and Chair of the Coordination Commission for the 2nd Winter Youth Olympic Games in 2016 in Lillehammer. On top of her work with the IOC she also sits on the Board of Directors of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC).

Joël Bouzou, President of the WOA, said:

“It is with great pleasure that I am able to welcome Angela Ruggiero as IOC Athletes’ Commission Liaison to the WOA Executive Board. Throughout her playing career Angela embodied the Olympic spirit and she has carried her commitment, dedication and exceptional skill in to her role as a sports administrator. She will do an excellent job for the WOA and Olympians around the world. I’d also like to send my sincere thanks and best wishes to Peter Tallberg.”

Olympic Gold Medallist, Angela Ruggiero said:

“Being an Olympian is a core part of who I am and I am looking forward to working alongside the WOA Executive Board in the coming months for the benefit of my fellow Olympians. The athletes are the core of the Olympic Movement and we must ensure that we do all we can to facilitate their needs to allow them to flourish and prosper in competition and in life outside of sport.”
You made it to the most elite level in sport. Now it’s time to tackle your next big dream – earning a college degree. With year-round classes starting every eight weeks on campus, online or a combination of both, DeVry and Chamberlain make it possible to pursue an education on your own terms.

We offer degree programs in 40+ fields, faculty with real-world experience, nursing programs tailored to your goals and experience, and a team dedicated to supporting you every step of the way, so you can make your next big dream a reality.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS
Team USA alumni may qualify for the following education benefits:

DeVry University and its Keller Graduate School of Management
- Group tuition rate, 30% tuition savings

Chamberlain College of Nursing
- Group tuition rate for pre-licensure program, 25% tuition savings
- Group tuition rate for post-licensure programs, 15% tuition savings
Symbolic giving campaign offers a brand-new way to support Team USA
What does it take to become an Olympian or Paralympian?

U.S. Olympic gymnast John Orozco will tell you it takes hard work and dedication, hours in the gym, a high tolerance for pain and a refusal to give up.

There’s one more piece to the puzzle, though – money. That’s where the Team USA Registry comes in.

For an Olympic or Paralympic hopeful, expenses such as international travel, sports medicine, high-quality coaching and proper equipment can add up quickly.

“I grew up in the Bronx, New York, and I had to travel to Westchester to train. That was a bit of a commute for my family, and we are not very wealthy,” Orozco said. “The costs all started adding up – gas, training and anything from competition fees to just getting to practice was always a struggle for us. Having to sacrifice all of those expenses to get me to the Olympic Games was really tough for my family financially.”

In Olympic and Paralympic sport, most athletes don’t benefit from hefty sponsorships. Instead, they often sacrifice important sleep and recovery time to take on outside work – ultimately hurting their athletic performance.

“Training is 100 percent a full-time job,” said swimmer and 12-time Olympic medalist Natalie Coughlin. “I dedicate between 6-8 hours to swimming throughout the day, whether that’s making sure I’m getting the proper recovery and nutrition, training in the pool or getting to and from practice. It really does add up.”

The United States Olympic Committee is one of the only National Olympic Committees in the world that does not receive federal funding. Instead, athletes rely on the support of fans and donors nationwide to finance their Olympic and Paralympic dreams.

That’s why in April, the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Foundation launched a brand-new campaign aimed at helping U.S. athletes offset their training and living expenses.

The campaign, called the Team USA Registry, invites donors to purchase a symbolic gift that represents a real athlete need – anything from a cycling helmet to a plane ticket to a session with a sport dietitian.

When a donor purchases a symbolic gift, the cost of that item or service is then donated to the Team USA Fund (the annual fund of the USOPF) to provide resources such as athlete...
financial aid, operations at three U.S. Olympic Training Centers, and annual support to the individual National Governing Bodies of sport.

With the campaign, the USOC and USOPF will ensure they can send the best possible group of athletes to the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games – not just those who can afford to get there.

“I’ve been training at the international level for a very long time, and throughout the years I’ve seen other countries get more and more funding,” Coughlin said. “Since the USOC is not government-funded, we have to raise money to catch up with our competitors. I’m really lucky to have some great sponsors that now help me out with the cost of training, but being involved in this campaign is my way of giving back to my teammates and the rest of Team USA.”

In addition to raising money, the Team USA Registry also aims to educate the American public about the real financial situation of many elite athletes – in turn strengthening Team USA’s backbone of support for years to come.

Though a few of the best-known U.S. Olympians benefit from lucrative sponsorships, many U.S. Olympic and Paralympic hopefuls earn only about $20,000 annually. Compare that with the nearly $40,000 in expenses most athletes accrue each year while training for the Games, and the need for donor support is clear.

“My family and I used to have to sleep in my car because we couldn’t afford a hotel when I traveled for competitions,” Orozco, now a resident athlete at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, said. “Costs like that are what people don’t really realize – they just see the results at national championships or the Olympic Games. I think bringing those issues to light is really important for supporters to understand what we go through.”

By participating in the Team USA Registry campaign, fans are invited to become a part of the “Team Behind the Team” – the generous group of donors and sponsors who are invested in the success of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Teams.

To browse the Team USA Registry and choose a symbolic gift today, visit TeamUSARegistry.org.

About the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Foundation

In 2013, the USOC took an important step forward in its goal of increasing philanthropic support for Team USA’s athletes and programs by launching the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Foundation. The USOPF is a separate 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization which now serves as the primary source of philanthropic resources for the Olympic and Paralympic movements in the United States. All funds generated by the USOPF are transferred to the United States Olympic Committee as the sole beneficiary of the foundation. By generating critical financial resources, the foundation enables the USOC to make investments in areas that promote excellence and innovation for Team USA, on and off the field of play.
ANNOUNCING USA HOUSE FOR THE 2016 RIO GAMES!

LOCATED AT COLÉGIO SÃO PAULO ON IPANEMA BEACH, THE HOUSE WILL BE OPEN FOR THE 17 DAY DURATION OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES. WATCH THE LIVE FEED OF THE SPORTING COMPETITIONS, MINGLE WITH YOUR FELLOW ALUM AND CELEBRATE WITH THE ATHLETES OF THE RIO GAMES.
The USOPA is Going to Las Vegas – All Teams, All Games, All Together!

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Why? To Renew our friendships, support the current Olympic and Paralympic Teams on their Road to Rio, Celebrate the Unique Experiences of the Olympic and Paralympic Games and have Fun!

By the Numbers, as of 2015 – there are 4687 living Summer Olympians and 1399 Winter Olympians….. quite a unique club!

Reunion Dates: Friday, February 19, 2016 – Sunday, February 21, 2016 (you may come earlier or stay later – hotel rates will be extended)

Hotel: Tropicana Las Vegas (a Hilton Property – yes, Hilton is an Olympic sponsor)

Cost: Attendees pay for the following:
   1. Hotel
   2. Transportation
   3. Registration – here’s the registration info:

To Register for Reunion and Hotel
www.teamusa.org/usopa

Air Travel: call USOC Travel Desk for best United rates 1.800.841.0460, ID yourself as an Olympian or Paralympian

Registration fee of $208 per person includes the following:
• Welcome Reception on Friday night, February 19
• Saturday Breakfast, February 20
• Gala Dinner Celebration, February 20
• Sunday Breakfast, February 21
• Commemorative Gift & Reunion Photo
• Other surprises and lots of fun

Send a message via our facebook page – United States Olympians and Paralympians

This could be the largest gathering in the history of U.S. Olympians and Paralympians outside the Games!

Once an Olympian, Always an Olympian, Never Former, Never Past
One of the best ways to understand the past is through the participant’s voice. Oral traditions were the first recorded accounts of history; however, now historians use oral history to capture that crucial first person account. As the historic steward for the Olympic movement in the United States, the Crawford Family U.S. Olympic Archives is fortunate to have numerous oral histories in its collection.

One such collection includes the “Tales of Gold” interviews.


One such Olympian was Dorothy Poynton-Hill. On August 19, 1983, Dorothy was interviewed by Carlson and Fogarty. Born in Salt Lake City, Dorothy’s family later moved to Portland, Oregon where, at an early age, she learned to swim. The youngest of eight children, Dorothy grew up fearless and at the age of seven convinced her swim coach to allow her to jump off the diving board during swim lessons. This was the beginning of one of the most famous Olympic divers in U.S. history.

In 1928, at the age of 12, Dorothy went to New York on the advice of one of her coaches and competed in the Olympic Trials in diving. Much to everyone’s surprise, little Dorothy made the U.S. Olympic Team. Soon she was fitted for her Olympic uniforms and due to her age and size Dorothy stated in her interview, “Nothing fit with me!” Afterwards, the entire U.S. Olympic Team traveled to Amsterdam on board the S.S. President Roosevelt. Dorothy related that Lee Barnes (1924, 1928), a pole vaulter, brought her a box a candy and became an instant favorite with her on board ship. In addition to this being her first Olympic team and first ocean voyage, Dorothy also celebrated her thirteenth birthday.

Too young to compete in Women’s Platform in Amsterdam, Dorothy competed in Women’s Springboard [10 foot tower] winning the silver medal as part of a United States sweep with Helen Meany (gold) and Georgia Coleman (bronze). With this medal, Dorothy took her place in history as the youngest U.S. Olympic medalist.

After the 1928 Games, Dorothy continued competing in diving stating that although Georgia Coleman won bronze in 1928, she “was my toughest competitor, as far as the United States... a lot personality, a nice girl. But oh, was she tough.” In addition, Dorothy offered words of wisdom regarding diving to her interviewers, “You
watch the divers and you’ll invariably do the same thing; they miss a dive, you’ll do it. So that’s the first rule, you never watch a diver.”

When the Los Angeles 1932 Olympic Games came around, Dorothy won a spot on her second U.S. Olympic Team. This time, Dorothy was now old enough to compete in Women’s Platform and won her first gold medal in that event with Georgia Coleman and Marion Roper of the United States taking silver and bronze respectively.

After 1932, Even though offers poured in to turn pro, Dorothy looked down the road to Berlin and the 1936 Olympic Games. She recounted in her oral history having a conversation with her family about her aspirations: “Mom, I think I’ll go on. Do you think I could win another Olympic Championship? And she said, ‘Well, Why not? Sure you can’ and my brother said, ‘Sure you can Dorothy!’ I said, ‘Well, I’d like to do something nobody else did.’ And she said, ‘Well, that’s fine, if you want to do it, do it’... and that’s the reason I continued for another four years.”

In between 1932 and 1936, Dorothy continued swimming and diving, graduated high school and held down a couple of part time jobs, once even as an usher on Saturday afternoons in a movie theater, “Until a guy started to chase me around a desk and that was the end of that!” Dorothy remembered with a laugh.

At the Berlin 1936 Olympic Diving Trials, Dorothy’s old competitor Georgia Coleman, who turned professional after the 1932 Olympic Games, once again made an appearance, this time as diving judge at the Olympic Trials. Dorothy described one of her dives and the almost mishap that only Georgia caught. “If you start to make a dive and stop at the end of the board, that’s zero, you know, it goes from zero to ten; you don’t get a chance to do it over. For some reason, I finished 10 foot diving, I was already on the Olympic Team, but my goal was to get that second Olympic gold medal and I got on the tower [platform] at the Olympic Trials and I went to do my Running Swan and for some unknown reason instead of my right foot being out there, my left foot was out there and I knew if I stopped, a goose egg! I wouldn’t have made the tower! And do you know, out of all of those judges, Georgia came to me and said, ‘I saw the greatest thing in my life, I saw you out there with that left foot. She’s the only judge that detected it. And she said that’s the greatest dive I ever saw. And I said, ‘I don’t know why I did it, I knew I couldn’t stop; but I got nines or tens.”

Dorothy made the team in both events and won gold in Women’s Platform again and bronze in Springboard. With her second gold medal in Women’s Platform, Dorothy’s spot in Olympic Diving history was etched in stone.

Oral histories, such as Dorothy’s provide a wonderful glimpse into the private worlds of Olympians. Little bits of information, that one may never know, are shared with surprising candor. For example, at the Berlin 1936 Olympic Games each gold medalist received an oak sapling. Tracing the history of the Berlin Olympic Oaks has fascinated numerous historians. When asked what became of her oak sapling, Dorothy responded with a laugh, “I’ve had professors ask me, ‘What did you do with the tree? I don’t know where that tree is! All I knew was I’m not getting on the boat with a tree!’”

Each of the Tales of Gold interviews in the archives reveals such glimpses into our Olympians’ experiences. Not only do they provide historians with primary source information but also, capture each individual voice and spirit as no other method can.
New OORF Solidarity Grant established...

At a recent meeting of the OORF Board, a new policy was enacted that will allow any Olympian or Paralympian to request funds on behalf of their fellow Olympic or Paralympic teammates, without the recipient being involved. Prior policy required the recipient be aware of, and sign the application. These new “Solidarity Grants” are for smaller amounts, (limit:$1,000) but should allow us to “care for each other” in a more tangible way, with less paperwork. The awarding of a Solidarity Grant does not in any way prevent the recipients from making additional requests on their own behalf in the future.

This new policy should allow more grants to be awarded to more individuals, but it does require a little more work by the rest of us: You will have to complete and submit the one-page form, and you will be asked to personally present the gift to the recipient. If you want to be helpful, take a moment (or two) and get involved.

The OORF Solidarity Grant application form is available on the OORF website (www.OORF.org). If/when you hear of an Olympian or Paralympian who has suffered from an accident, illness or injury, please take the initiative to apply for a grant on their behalf. Let’s be here for each other, and let’s keep the Olympic Spirit alive!

Jeff Galloway, based in Atlanta, Georgia, was an average teenage runner who kept learning and working harder, until he became an Olympian. He is the author of the best-selling running book in North America and a Runner’s World columnist as well as an inspirational speaker to over 200 running and fitness sessions each year. Jeff Galloway has completed far more than 100 marathons, and he spends the time necessary to answer the questions of thousands of beginners, recreational runners, aspiring marathoners, and time goal runners every year.

Go to Amazon.com to find out more!

Here is an overview of his books from Barnes & Noble and our Cardinal Publisher Group/ Meyer & Meyer Sports coffers.

Overview on Galloway’s book “Run-Walk-Run”

Jeff’s quest for the injury-free marathon training program led him to develop group training programs in 1978, and to author Runner’s World articles which have been used by hundreds of thousands of runners of all abilities. His training schedules have inspired the second wave of marathoners who follow the Galloway run-walk-run, low mileage, three day suggestions to an over-98% success rate. Jeff has worked with over 200,000 average people in training for specific goals and is the inventor of the Galloway run-walk-run method. Jeff is an inspirational speaker to over 200 running and fitness sessions each year. His innovative ideas have opened up the possibility of running and completing a marathon to almost everyone. Philosophically, Jeff believes that we were all designed to run and walk, and he keeps finding ways to bring more people into the positive world of exercise.

Overview of “America’s Best Places to Run”

“America’s Best Places to Run” enhances the running experience by offering access to very special running routes. Research
shows that runners travel more than the average person. They are constantly looking for great places to run. This book gives a preview of the scenery with directions to the start and special instructions to enjoy the area. This book includes tips on training for trail running, dealing with elevation, running uphill and downhill, terrain issues and endurance. Time-tested suggestions for choosing footwear, clothing, drinks and energy snacks are provided.

Overview on “Running Until you are 100”

Olympian Jeff Galloway has worked with tens of thousands of runners in their 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s. By using his run-walk-run method, most are able to enjoy running with fewer aches and pains. At the age of 60, Jeff reports no injuries in 27 years. This book explains how to achieve this, stay motivated and increase the enjoyment.

“Wild” meets “The Boys in the Boat,” a memoir about the quest for Olympic gold and the triumph of love over fear. Ginny grew up in an era where girls mostly stayed on the sidelines in the gym—as observers and cheerleaders, not competitors and champions. Raised in a family where business acumen was treasured as the ultimate trophy, she toed the line of her father’s expectations. To Ginny, that meant the pursuit of academic excellence. However, her operating assumptions changed nearly overnight in 1975, as a freshman at Yale when she discovered rowing. From her first strokes as a novice, Ginny found herself in a new world. At Yale, she trained with two Olympic rowers and participated in the famous Title IX naked protest, which helped mold the future of women’s crew and helped define the Title IX movement.

“Course Correction” recounts the physical and psychological barriers Ginny overcame as she transformed into an elite athlete who reached the highest echelon of her sport. Taking place against the backdrop of unprecedented cultural change, Ginny’s story personalizes the impact of Title IX, demonstrating the life-changing lessons learned in sports far beyond the athletic fields of play. Her journey wends its way to the Olympic podium in 1984, carries her through family tragedy, strengthens her to face her own demons and truths, and ultimately frees her to live her life despite her persistent fear of loss.
Jenny Potter

One of the most successful players in women’s hockey history is taking over in Columbus.

Ohio State announced that it has hired four-time Olympian Jenny Potter to be the school’s third-ever women’s hockey head coach.

“I am very excited for this opportunity,” Potter said in a statement released by the University. “The Ohio State University has a storied tradition of academic and athletic excellence, and I look forward to contributing to this standard of excellence. I am proud to be a Buckeye, and I look forward to coaching and mentoring these young women.”

Potter, who comes to Columbus after coaching Division III Trinity College the past two seasons, has a wealth of playing experience. The Eagan, Minn. native is a four-time All-American in college (1998-99 with Minnesota and 1999-2000 & 2002-2004 with Minnesota-Duluth). In addition to winning a national championship with UMD in 2003, Potter (nee Schmidgall) remains the Bulldogs’ all-time leading point scorer with 256 (108 G-148 A).

Internationally, she represented the United States in four Olympic Games, winning a gold medal in 1998 and serving as the team captain in 2010.

Ohio State (17-16-3 in 2014-15) finished last season sixth (of eight teams) in the WCHA with 40 points. Despite finishing in the bottom half of the standings, the Buckeyes began the second half with a six game winning streak and challenged all of the top teams. OSU ended the year defeating a Frozen Four-bound Wisconsin team and gave Minnesota fits with an aggressive forecheck, coming back from a two goal deficit to tie the eventual national champions at Ridder Arena.

Potter will take over a team which graduates many of its top players, but brings in one of the top players in the country in defenseman Jincy Dunne. Almost making the 2014 Olympic team at the age of 16, Dunne captained the 2015 U.S. U-18 team to gold and scored the overtime winning goal.

Baldwin-Wallace dedicate statue of Harrison Dillard at George Finnie Stadium

SPORTSBIZ -- KEVIN KLEPS
Blog Entry: April 08, 2015 1:00 PM
Author: KEVIN KLEPS
A notable name from Cleveland’s sports history now has a statue at Baldwin Wallace University.

And it’s an honor that’s a long time coming.

Harrison Dillard, a four-time Olympic gold medalist, was recognized by his alma mater. At noon on Saturday, April 18, during a break in the annual Paul “Sparky” Adams Invitational Track Meet, Baldwin Wallace dedicated a life-sized bronze statue to Dillard that is located in front of The George Finnie Stadium in Berea.

The piece was created by Cleveland artist and sculptor David Deming, who did terrific work on the Jim Thome statue at Progressive Field.

Dillard, who was at the event, is a 1949 graduate of BW. He is the only man to win Olympic golds in the 100-meter dash and the 110-meter high hurdles. He accomplished the former in London in 1948, and the latter in Helsinki in 1952. He also won golds in the 4x100-meter in 1948 and 1952.

“Last fall, we made a surprise
announcement to Harrison,” Baldwin Wallace President Robert Helmer said in a news release. “He was stunned. He never expected this type of attention. His legacy as an athlete, a World War II veteran and as a mentor to youth exemplifies the type of steadfastness, team spirit and triumph we try to instill in our students.”

Dillard’s back story, which is told in this piece on the school’s website, is even more interesting than his accomplishments.

Prior to the 1948 Olympic Trials, Dillard had won 82 consecutive hurdles races, a world record. But he tripped over a hurdle in the trials and didn’t qualify for his best event in the Olympic Games. He did, however, compete in the 100 and the 4x100 in 1948 — winning gold in both events.

Four years later, Dillard narrowly defeated U.S. teammate Jack Davis to win the 110 hurdles, then picked up his fourth gold medal by helping the Americans to a first-place finish in the 4x100.

Dillard won four NCAA titles in the hurdles at BW, and took home the 1953 Sullivan Award, which is given to the nation’s top amateur athlete. In between competing for Olympic golds, Dillard worked as a scout and public relations assistant for the Cleveland Indians after his 1949 college graduation. He was also a longtime business manager for the Cleveland Board of Education. He is an annual fixture at the Cleveland City Schools track meet that is named after him — the Harrison Dillard Indoor Championship Meet.

“This statue serves not only as a reminder of Harrison and his accomplishments, but also as an inspiration for all who attend events at Finnie Stadium,” Helmer said.
Lisa Leslie

Lisa Leslie was surprised when she got the phone call that she was elected to the basketball Hall of Fame.

“I always thought you had to be much older to get in,” the 42-year-old said with a laugh in a phone interview with The Associated Press. “I’m really honored, though, to be chosen among so many elite athletes and coaches. It’s nothing I really ever planned for or thought about.”

Leslie was among 11 inductees selected for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame this year. She was selected in the first year she was eligible after ending her 13-year WNBA career in 2009. She won four Olympic gold medals, helping the U.S. to titles in 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008. The first one, though, was the most special to her.

“Playing in front of 35,000 fans cheering really, really always warms my heart,” she said of the Atlanta Games. “The first time they placed a gold medal around my neck. The other three were great as well, but I can’t say how much that first time with that team meant to me. We’re going on our 20-year anniversary next year.”

That 1996 win helped jumpstart the WNBA, which is starting its 19th season this summer. She won two titles with the Los Angeles Sparks and earned the league’s MVP three times.

Leslie was also proud that she was one of the first versatile players to play women’s basketball in the U.S. At 6-5, she could step out and shoot the three as well as post up.

She paved the way for current stars Candace Parker, Breanna Stewart and A’ja Wilson.

“There never had been a woman built like her who could do the things that she did,” UConn coach Geno Auriemma said of Leslie. “She has been the forerunner for guys like Stewie. The impact she had in the women’s game at the time didn’t get the attention it did now. I’m glad people remember, since sometimes people forget. I had a chance to be on the coaching staff with her in Sydney when she was on the team. She was a once-in-a-lifetime kind of player.”

Leslie celebrated her selection in a special way with a trip to Disney World. She was taking her family to the theme park for her son’s fifth birthday. She joked that she blew a good marketing opportunity.

“I have to shoot something for them now: ‘Hi, I’m Lisa Leslie and I’m in the Hall of Fame and I’m going to Disney World,’” she said. “Might have helped us get through the lines a little faster.”

Joining Leslie in the Hall of Fame class were Kentucky coach John Calipari, Spencer Haywood, longtime referee Dick Bavetta, Celtics star Jo Jo White and Boston coach Tom Heinsohn, four-time NBA defensive player of the year Dikembe Mutombo, former coach George Raveling, ex-Kentucky and ABA star Louis Dampier, Australian player and coach Lindsay Gaze and John Isaacs, an ex-player who will be inducted posthumously.

The induction ceremony will be held Sept. 10-12 in Springfield, Massachusetts.
Tatyana McFadden Wins Laureus Award

U.S. Paralympian Tatyana McFadden has won the 2015 Laureus World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award at a glittering ceremony in Shanghai, China, for her achievements in 2014 in both track and field and cross-country skiing.

In her first full season in snow sports, McFadden won silver in the 1-kilometer cross-country sprint at the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games and 32 days later won the London Marathon. With further wins in Boston, Chicago and New York, she repeated her feat of 2013, when she became the first athlete ever to win all four major world marathons in a calendar year.

On the track she also set new world records over 1,500-meter and 5,000 T54 to cap a memorable year. As she was preparing to compete in the Boston marathon the following Sunday, McFadden was not in Shanghai to collect her award, leaving her mom to pick up the accolade on her behalf instead.

“Thanks to my family for being the change in my world and for getting me involved with sports,” McFadden said on Facebook. “Thank you to my mom for being at the Laureus Sports Awards and accepting the award on my behalf. I unfortunately could not make it there. It is an incredible honor to have won the Laureus Sportsperson the Year with a Disability. Thank you, thank you Laureus! This award is dedicated to my family who have always believed in my crazy dreams.”

To win the award, McFadden beat five other finalists, including Russian Nordic skier Roman Petushkov and German alpine skier Anna Schaffelhuber, who between them won 11 gold medals at Sochi 2014. Great Britain’s para-cyclist Sarah Storey, Hong Kong’s boccia world champion Yuk Wing Leung and Canada’s para-cycling world champion Shelly Gauthier were also nominated.

The globally televised Laureus World Sports Awards was hosted by British film and TV actor Benedict Cumberbatch. Among the presenters were Hollywood legend Bill Murray, star of iconic films such as Groundhog Day, Ghostbusters and Hyde Park on Hudson, Henry Cavill, who played Superman in the film Man of Steel, multi award-winning Korean actress Ha Ji-won, and actress and model Karolína Kurkova.

MILESTONES

Erin Aldrich-Shean
(Track & Field, 2000)

Introducing John William Shean a.k.a. “Jack.” Born 3/7/15 @ 8:42pm. 7lbs 14oz. 22 inches long (97th percentile)... looks like we have a tall little boy on our hands!!
Betty Mullen Brey passed away on Mar. 21, 2015, at age 84.

Born in Weissport, PA, Brey’s aquatic career began in 1947 when she won her first race at the Old Home Week celebration in Mauch Chunk (now Jim Thorpe). Her first big competition was a one-mile Lehigh River swim in Allentown where she finished second.

She represented the U.S. at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, Australia. She swam for the silver medal-winning U.S. team in the preliminary heats of the women’s 4x100-meter freestyle relay.

In addition to her Olympic appearance, Brey also competed in the 1951 and 1955 Pan American Games and won two gold and silver medals.

Following her Olympic experience, she became the swim coach at George Washington University.

She was a 1953 graduate of Purdue University and served as an officer in the U.S. Army.

Brey was a 1993 inductee into the Carbon County Sports Hall of Fame along with her brother Charles “Jack” Mullen.

William “Henry” Carr passed away on May 29, 2015, at age 73.

When you hear the name, Henry Carr, you may reflect on his athletic accomplishments.

By the time he was 22 years of age, he had traveled to Great Britain, Russia, Germany and Australia, ultimately winning two gold medals at the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan. Shortly thereafter, he signed with the New York Giants. In spite of his personal successes, Henry came to realize that these accomplishments did not bring him true peace or happiness. Like many others, he yearned for solutions to life’s injustices that he personally experienced and observed in his travels.

In January 1973, Henry began an earnest study of the Bible. As a result of what he learned, Henry and his wife Glenda were baptized in May 1973 and entered the race for life. From that time forward, he channeled the same work ethic and self-discipline which produced athletic success, into serving as a minister and servant of Jehovah God. In 1974, Henry moved to Upson County, Georgia, where there was a need for Jehovah’s Witnesses. Shortly thereafter, he helped start the first Congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses in Barnesville, Georgia. Since then, Henry has served as a Christian Elder in Georgia, Michigan, New York and Florida. Henry highly cherished the privilege to relocate to Patterson, New York in 1991 with Glenda, where he volunteered on the construction site for the Watchtower Patterson’s Educational Center.

During his acceptance speech at his induction into the 2000 class of Michigan Sports Hall of Fame, Henry said, “he was just an ordinary man, who was able to accomplish some extraordinary things.” He was not arrogant and never sought special treatment, he was a down to earth, humble man who possessed Godly insight, discernment and wisdom. He loved people and people loved him. Henry had a great sense of humor and would light up any room he entered. Just ask anyone who met him; they felt that they were in the presence of a special man and never because of his athletic accomplishments. In fact, most never knew of those accomplishments, unless told by someone else, because Henry rarely spoke about himself, the Olympic Games or his NFL career. Even though Henry loved his privacy and solitude, he unselfishly gave his time and attention to all, he loved people and always focused on the good in others and looked for ways to help. Henry always found a way to lift the spirits of others. He could jokingly put you at ease and at the same time provide spiritual correction and
advice when needed. He truly practiced what Jesus Christ taught and was an exemplary Christian man. Henry often told his wife, “You can never go wrong by being kind.” Henry always encouraged others to make serving Jehovah God their vocation in life just like Jesus Christ.

He leaves to cherish his memory and meet in Paradise, his loving wife Glenda; children, Peyton Carr (April), Piper Carr of Redford, MI, Andrea Carr (Louis) of Phoenix, AZ; grandchildren, Jeylan, Gencie, August, Jules and Lauryn; brothers, Emmitt Carr of Detroit, MI, Linwood Carr Sr. of Delray, FL, Jasper Car of Southgate, MI and Ethan Carr of River Rouge, MI; sisters, Flozell Coachman of Montgomery, AL, Charity Carr Townsend Harris of Detroit, MI, and Escalita Jones of Syrma, GA; and a host of nieces, nephews and close friends.

Benjamin “Benny” Garcia
(Track and Field, 1956)

Benjamin “Benny” Garcia passed away on Feb. 15, 2015 at age 81.

Benny was an avid handball player and golfer, he was a member of the 1950 Alamogordo High School State Championship football team. He excelled at track & field, where he set the New Mexico state record for javelin in 1951. He received a track scholarship to Arizona State University where he continued to throw the javelin for four years. Thereafter, he became a member of the 1956 U.S. Olympic Team; he placed eighth in the javelin throw.

Benny served honorably in the U.S. Navy. Benny is survived by his wife Joann; five children, John (Carla), Mark (Janis), Jeanne (Michael), Lisa (Bob) and Stephen (Lise); 15 grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; brothers Albert (Bessie), Tomas (Dora) and Paul (Lucy); sisters Ernestine (Billy) Bassford, Bertha (Joe) Carabajal and Helen (Mickey) Melendez; and a host of nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, Juan R. and Pauline M. Garcia; brothers Solomon and Theodore; and sisters Agnes Gutierrez and Beatrice Granados.

We will honor our hero, our mentor and our beloved Tata by passing on his kindness.

Richard L. Gruenther
(Modern Pentathlon, 1948)

Richard L. Gruenther passed away on March 18, 2015, at age 90.

Richard Louis Gruenther was the second son of Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther (USMA 1919) from Platte Center, Nebraska, and Grace E. Gruenther (nee Crum) from Jefferson, Indiana. Richard and his older brother Donald A. Gruenther both continued their father’s esteemed legacy of military service to their country.

Dick attended the Military Academy at West Point and graduated with the class of 1946. He also earned a master’s degree at Springfield College in Massachusetts (1951-52) and later attended the National War College (1965-66). As a West Point cadet, Dick played banjo in his own country band, “Gruenther’s Grumblers.” Moreover, he was an outstanding athlete and was selected to compete in Modern Pentathlon in the London 1948 Olympic Games, placing third with his three-man team.

Dick served in Japan from 1949 to 1950 with the 11th Airborne, then in the 17th Infantry Regiment at Camp
Schimmelpfennig. There he met Susan Mannheimer, a World War II Navy WAVE, now working for the American Red Cross Field Service in Japan. They shared a passion for tennis, sailing and skiing - and married in Japan on June 17, 1950.

In the Korean War, Dick served as rifle company commander in combat at Inchon and again at Iwon, earning a battlefield promotion to captain. He was seriously wounded there. Further assignments included: Instructor Physical Education at West Point (1952-55); Ranger training, Fort Benning, Ga. (1955-56); S-3 of the 28th Infantry in Heilbrun, Germany (1957-59); Instructor at the Command and Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. (1959-63); Regimental commander of the 32nd Infantry, Korea (1963-64); Department of the Army staff, Pentagon (1964-65); Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D.C. (1966-68); Infantry Brigade command in Vietnam (1968-69); Director of military instruction in the Dept. of Tactics at West Point (1969-73); and TRADOC Headquarters, Ft. Monroe, Va. (1973-75).

Dick was proud to be an infantry soldier. His decorations include two Silver Stars, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, two combat Infantry Badges, twelve Air Medals, the Purple Heart and four Legion of Honor awards for peacetime work.

Retiring in 1975 after 30 years of active service, Dick was director of development at the West Point Association of Graduates for another 14 years. Later, he created the Planned Giving Program for the AOG and served as its first director until 1989.

Dick was a loving and generous husband and father. He and Sue did an extraordinary job of raising six children, all of whom inherited their parents’ love of sports, outdoor adventures, music and art. For proximity to much of their family, and to continue their active life of tennis, golf and swimming, Dick and Sue moved to St. Augustine in 1997.

Richard is survived by Susan, his devoted wife of 65 years, and his six children: Richard Gruenther, of Tampa; Joan Swider, of New Windsor, N.Y.; Pat Conway, of St. Augustine; Paul Gruenther, of Jacksonville Beach; Max Gruenther, of New Orleans, La.; and Laura Gruenther Crotty, of Ojai, Calif. - along with eight grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and numerous nephews and nieces.

Ernst Heincke
(Canoe/Kayak, 1968)

Ernst August Heincke passed away on March 8, 2015, at age 83.

Ernst was born in Hamburg, Germany and immigrated to Canada with his wife, Marion, and young daughters, Susanne and Sabine, in 1958. They subsequently immigrated to the U.S. in 1960. Ernst retired from Loral Corporation in 1993 after a long career as a computer programmer (self-taught) for military aircraft reconnaissance and computer programming teacher.

Ernst was an avid kayaker and canoeist. He met his wife, Marion, at the Alster Canoe Club in Hamburg and frequently paddled on the Elbe River and North Sea before immigrating. He represented the U.S. in the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City, competing in the K-4 (kayaking) event. He was an accomplished builder of wooden kayaks and canoes, which he paddled on rivers throughout the northeastern U.S.

Ernst was known for his encyclopedic memory and expertise in a wide range of areas, which he used to good measure in engaging discourse and storytelling. Even as a boy, he was known among his friends as the “professor.” He delighted in “educating” experts and novices alike.

His wife, Marion, predeceased him in 1999. He is survived by his children, Susanne Heincke (Gardner Locke), Sabine Heincke Weber, Arno Heincke (Debbie), and Kirsten Heincke (David Burch) and grandchildren: Julian, Sophie, Erik, Mason, Hanna and Joy.

Sharon Marie McKniff
(Track and Field, 1968)

Sharon Marie McKniff passed away on April 30, 2015, at age 63.

The energy and drive that would
characterize Sharon throughout her life was evidenced early as she transitioned from a middle distance runner to a high jumper at age 15, and made the 1968 Olympic team as a high jumper 18 months later. Although a knee injury would prevent her from returning to the Olympic Games, she was constantly involved in athletic activities throughout the remainder of her life. She loved to be active and over the years used running, volleyball and tennis as her favorite outlets.

She met John McKniff while they were both in college, and they were married in 1973. Most of her married years were devoted to the raising of their sons Chris and Kevin, with a career as a paralegal book-ended before and after the time the boys were at home. She was involved with their activities as a room mother, scout den mother, team mother, PTA president and fan.

Sharon stayed involved with others by volunteering her time as a track coach at Sabino High School in Tucson and a trainer with the cancer survivor organization Better Than Ever. After retiring in 2011, Sharon gave of her time by joining the Saddlebrooke Rotary Club and by volunteering at the Catalina Food and Clothing bank.

Sharon’s vast energies and spirit were generously shared with all. She will be greatly missed by her family and legion of friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents Donald Eugene Callahan and Jeannine Standish Callahan (Streeton). She is survived by her husband of 42 years, John; sons Chris and Kevin; and Ryan Mineburg and his wife Lindsey.

Irving “Moon” Mondschein
(Track and Field, 1948)

Irving “Moon” Mondschein passed away on June 5, 2015, at age 91.

He was an outstanding track and field athlete at Boys (now Boys and Girls) High School, then attended New York University for one year before entering the Army.

He won the 1944 AAU decathlon while stationed in Brooklyn, then won two more titles after being discharged from military service. He competed at the London 1948 Olympic Games. Moon’s specialty in the decathlon provided a supreme challenge.

At 6-2 inches, 200 pounds or so, Moon played offensive and defensive end, and sometimes running back, at NYU for three seasons and was an All-East selection.

He was an assistant and then head track and field coach for Penn from the mid-1960s to 1987. He was a head coach at Lincoln University and an assistant at Villanova, LaSalle and Kutztown University when his son Brian was the head coach there.

He was a volunteer coach at Haverford College into his late 80s. His son Brian is now assistant coach of the women’s track and field team at Princeton.

Moon and his wife, Momoe, who survives him, lived in Havertown, Pa., until two years ago, when they moved to an assisted-living center in Hershey.

In addition to his wife, his sons Brian and Mark, his grandson Brian and another grandson, Stephen, he is survived by a daughter, Ilana Mondschein; a sister, Roslyn Lampert; and a great-grandchild. Moon’s pride in his family’s devotion to track and field stood out. “It’s very unique, to have three generations in the sport like we do,” he said. “We’re all track junkies.”

Evelyn Furtsch Ojeda
(Track and Field, 1932)

Evelyn Furtsch Ojeda, passed away March 5, 2015, at age 101.

Furtsch Ojeda was a member of the United States women’s 4x100-meter team that took gold in the Los Angeles 1932 Olympic Games.
Furtsch Ojeda was born in San Diego in April 1914, but grew up in Santa Ana and graduated from Tustin High School, where she played baseball, basketball and field hockey.

“I was always fast,” she told George Hodak in an interview of Olympians in 1987. “I think I was born with a natural ability.”

After the boys track coach saw her potential, he encouraged her to try out for the Olympics. When the Los Angeles Athletic Club ran out of money and couldn’t afford to pay for the trip to Chicago for the Olympic Trials, the Tustin Chamber of Commerce raised $190 of the $300 she needed to make the trip.

With teammates Mary Carew, Annette Rogers and Wilhelmina von Bremen, the four U.S. women captured gold with a time of 46.9 seconds, a world record. Furtsch ran the second leg of the relay.

“It was a very close race,” she said in 1987. “… At the end of the race, it was something like a one-yard difference” between them and the Canadian team.

Furtsch Ojeda never competed in sports again, and instead she enrolled in Santa Ana College and earned an associate’s degree. Her daughter, Barbara Squyres, recalls a story she heard as a child about her mother’s first assignment in an English class.

“The first thing the English teacher said was to write down what they did during the summer,” Squyres said. “She said ‘I didn’t want to brag, so I didn’t write anything and I got an F.’”

By the time the Berlin 1936 Olympic Games came around, Furtsch Ojeda had given birth to Squyres.

“We just loved to run and we were so excited to be a part of something that was as exciting as that was,” she said in 1987. “We only did it as one part of our life and when it was over we went back to doing our own thing. … There was nothing else going on, nothing else to do.”

Furtsch Ojeda loved running, but always put her family ahead of everything else, Squyres said. Not one to take things easy, the Olympian was still active around her Santa Ana hometown, and played golf somewhat regularly up until a few years ago. She was a member of the Tustin lodge of the Knights of Pythias.

Along with her husband, Joe Ojeda, the couple ran a real estate brokerage business on Harbor Boulevard in Garden Grove, near the area that would become Disneyland. The couple ran the business, Joe Ojeda Realty, until the 1980s or 90s.

Furtsch Ojeda also attended the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Evelyn leaves behind her two children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Gloriane A. Perrier (Canoe/Kayak, 1960, 1964)

Gloriane Perrier passed away March 7, 2015, at age 85.

She was a graduate of Lewiston High School class of 1949. Gloriane then went to Washington D.C. and became a secretary at the Department of the Army and served in that capacity until her retirement in 1983.

Glo found her true calling for athletics and adventure which included both aviation and competitive sports, including softball, basketball, speed skating, bowling and Olympic flat water kayaking. She competed in the Rome 1960 Olympic Games and won a silver medal in the Tokyo 1964 Olympic Games in the 500-meter doubles flat water sprints.

Always a competitor, she never ever quit no matter how difficult the circumstances. She was a remarkable person who also taught herself to ride a Harley Davidson Road King Classic at the age of 73. She was skilled enough to ride cross country twice and even rode into Nova Scotia, Canada.
She is survived by her loving sister, Therese Perrier, her godchild Ginny Saffelle Kennedy. She leaves many friends throughout the United States, Europe and her Olympic family. Gloriane made Alabama her home for the last 35 years with her friend, Deb Magee and their beloved basset hounds. She is predeceased by two brothers; Marcel and Conrad Perrier.

David Lee Rodda
(Track and Field Coach, 1980, 1988)

David Rodda passed away April 3, 2015, at age 74.

Dave was a lifelong area resident of Bellflower, Calif. He had a 45-year career with the City of Lakewood, in which he retired in 2002 as the director of recreation and community services. During his career with the City of Lakewood, Dave created the Park Watch Program, Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame, the DASH transportation program and Project Shepard, a year-round emergency food assistance program.

Dave was also a pioneer for women’s track and field, coaching for over 50 years. In addition to coaching at his alma mater, Long Beach State, he coached 12 Olympians and was selected as an assistant coach of the 1980 and 1988 Olympic teams. He has also served as head coach for Team USA at the 1991 world championships held in Tokyo, Japan, and at the 1995 Pan American Games. In 1996, Dave was distinguished as a master coach, the highest recognition in coaching education by USA Track and Field.

Jeri, his wife of 49 years preceded Dave in death. He is survived by his son Scott (Ashley), daughter Stacy, grandchildren Devlin, Aidan, Delaney and Megyn and his two sisters, Judy Miller (Gary) and Pat Andrews.

Frank Sodano
(Boxing, 1948)

Frank Sodano passed away on May 11, 2015, at age 84.

Frank was a member of the 1948 Olympic boxing team. He was a professional boxer until 1955, when he held the title contender for the lightweight championship of the world. In 2002, he was elected into the South Philadelphia High School Hall of Fame. He is predeceased by his parents Nicola and Ida Sodano and his siblings Nicholas, Margie, Josephine and Ida.

Proud father of his eight successful children, Frank (Carol) Sodano, Dorinda (Bob) Hevener, Rev. Thomas Sodano, Angelina (Joseph) Miller, Anthony (Sabrina) Sodano, Joseph (Diane) Sodano, Michael (Rita) Sodano, Bernadette (Toby) Morello and their mother Matilda Sodano; loving grandfather of 21 and great grandfather of eight; dear brother of Tony DeVito, Rosemarie Colaprete, Nazerene Sodano and Angelina Sanchez.

Colin Campbell Stewart, IV
(Ski/Snowboard, 1948)

Colin Campbell Stewart passed away March 6, 2015, at age 88.

Colin served in the Army during and after World War II. Part of the time he was stationed in Garmisch, Germany with the Special Services in charge of the skiing and tennis program. After completing his undergraduate degree at Dartmouth College, he received...
a graduate degree in architecture at Harvard University. He was an avid tennis player and skier, and pursued skiing competitively, competing for the Dartmouth Ski Team and participating in the 1948 Olympic Games in London representing the U.S. in the slalom event. In 1957, he married Ann Edwards. The family moved to Colorado in 1959 where they raised their children. Colin practiced architecture, designing private residences and public buildings throughout the state.

He is survived by his siblings Robert (Jake) Stewart, Mary Newman, and Janet Bill, as well as his four daughters Catharine Johnson, Jessie Flanagan, Elizabeth Bauer and Rebecca Brandes, their mother, spouses and eight grandchildren.

Alvin “Paul” Wegeman
(Ski Jumping, 1952)

Alvin “Paul” Wegeman passed away on May 30, 2015, at age 88.

Beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, friend and faithful follower of Jesus Christ.

Paul was born in Denver, but Los Angeles became his adopted residence for 25 years, followed by a move to Colorado Springs in 1982. Even though he and his family lived only five years in Steamboat Springs during his high school and college career, he always considered Steamboat “home.”

Paul was full of energy, hope, optimism and courage, was charming, charismatic, humble, caring, a teacher, singer, Olympic skier, real estate agent and investor, small-business owner, motivational speaker, national presidential award honoree for a lifetime of volunteerism and was inducted into three ski Halls of Fame (Denver University, Western State Colorado University and Colorado Ski Hall of Fame.)

He temporarily leaves his treasured family: wife of 60 years, Nancy Stevens Wegeman, son Alvin Paul Wegeman, Jr., daughter-in-law Joan M. Wegeman, grandchildren Jennefer Herrick, Jeffrey Herrick, great-grandchildren Allie and Tyler, sisters Jean Downing, Mary Hartwell (Larry) and Barbara Wegeman, precious nieces and nephews and loving friends.

What a rich life he had, full of meaning and purpose, inspirational to all who knew him.

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Paul lived graciously and died gallantly.
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VANCOUVER, BC - JULY 05: Christie Rampone #3 of the United States of America holds the World Cup Trophy after their 5-2 win over Japan in the FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015 Final at BC Place Stadium on July 5, 2015 in Vancouver, Canada. (Photo by Ronald Martinez/Getty Images)
TORONTO, ON - JULY 10: Kim Rhode carries the American flag for the United States during the Opening Ceremony for the Toronto 2015 Pan Am Games at Rogers Centre on July 10, 2015 in Toronto, Canada. (Photo by Ezra Shaw/ Getty Images)

2. Dick Fosbury and Diane Simpson with John Furlong, who served as the CEO of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games at NASC Conference in Milwaukee, WI.


5. Olympians gather to celebrate the screening of “The Renaissance Period of the African American in Sports” a tribute to the 9 track and field medalists of the 1936 Olympics who shattered records and stereotypes at Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia, April 29, 2015.

6. Jacqueline Washington, BMW General Manager and Chad Hedrick attend a “Driving for Team USA” event.


8. Members of the 1980 Olympic Rowing Team rekindled memories at the San Diego Crew Classic….lots of good times, looking at old pics, and sharing special friendships.
Alabama Olympians & Paralympians
President: Jennifer Chandler Stevenson
(diving, 1976)
(205) 313-7436

Arizona Olympians & Paralympians
President: Misty Hyman (swimming, 2000)
(602) 248-6359

Colorado Olympians & Paralympians
President: Gene Kotlarek (ski jumping 1960, 1964)
(303) 807-3911

Florida Olympians
President: Carrie Zimmerman (gymnastics, 1976)
(850) 212-7846

Georgia Olympians & Paralympians
President: Bob Pickens (wrestling, 1964)
(770) 425-3254

Hawaii Olympians
President: Brent Berk (swimming, 1968)
(808) 395-0600

Florida Olympians
President: Carrie Zimmerman (gymnastics, 1976)
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(770) 425-3254

Hawaii Olympians
President: Brent Berk (swimming, 1968)
(808) 395-0600

Idaho Olympians & Paralympians
President: Dick Fosbury (track & field, 1968)
(208) 720-2352

Indiana Olympians
President: Ollan Cassell (track & field, 1964)
(317) 253-1162

Midwest Olympians & Paralympians
President: Diane Simpson (rhythmic gymnastics, 1988)
(847) 452-7843

National Capital Area Olympians
President: Arlene Limas (taekwondo, 1988)
(540) 720-1988

President: Julie Koons (track & field, 1984, 1988)
(314) 881-6710

President: Debra Stark (track & field, 1984, 1992)
(801) 369-9918

President: Dean Willeford (water polo, 1968)
(775) 827-1775

New England Area Olympians & Paralympians
President: Sharon Ann Jewell (taekwondo, 1988)
(404) 668-7896

New Mexico Olympians & Paralympians
President: Trish King Porter (track & field, 1988)
(505) 459-9732

Northern California Olympians & Paralympians
(415) 441-0521

Oregon Olympians & Paralympians
President: David Johnson (track & field, 1988, 1992)
(503) 302-3992

Southern California Olympians
President: Tamara Christopherson (canoe/kayak, 2000)
(206) 605-9265

Southwest Olympians & Paralympians
President: Sammy Walker (weightlifting, 1976)
(469) 955-3158

Tri-States Olympians
President: Diane Dixon (track & field, 1984, 1988)
(917) 538-3195

Utah Olympians
President: Charles Ruthford (rowing, 1972)
(801) 369-9918

Western PA-OH-WV Olympians
President: Julie Koons (track & field, 1984, 1988)
(216) 346-2650

No chapter in your area?
Interested in starting a chapter?
Contact the U.S. Olympians & Paralympians Association office for details at:
(800) 717-7555