Dear Olympians and Paralympians,

In October, the United States Olympians Association board of directors voted to unite the Paralympians with our organization, forming the U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association. Although we were not the first country in the world to do so, I am proud to have helped in this effort.

The Paralympic Movement have continued to grow since its inception. The popularity of watching Paralympians compete was never more evident than at the London 2012 Games. One could scarcely find a ticket to attend a Paralympic event. Virtually all venues were sold out. Additionally, NBC will televise live coverage of most Paralympic events for the first time at the 2016 Games in Rio de Janiero, Brazil.

Paralympians are incredible role models. Not only do they share the same passion as Olympians to excel in their chosen sports, but they do so while overcoming physical impairments. They share the same values as Olympians and believe in fostering those values in communities around the United States, by inspiring and encouraging youth, developing camaraderie and honoring all those who have shared the unique experience of representing their nation at the Olympic or Paralympic Games.

Joining Olympians and Paralympians into one organization will make us a stronger, more effective group. I appreciate the work of Olympian Caryn Davies and Paralympian Linda Mastandrea, who spearheaded the initial drive to bring Olympians and Paralympians together. I would also like to
thank the members of the USOA board of directors governing committee, who worked tirelessly to develop our new USOPA Constitution.

Last year also marked the initial effort to reorganize the USOPA, starting with a test in Florida. In an effort to better serve our members, we divided Florida into six regions, each represented by at least one leader. Our hope is to do a better job of communicating with and connecting our members within those regions and thereby, helping them feel closer to the Olympic and Paralympic movements. If this test in Florida is successful, my hope is to do the same throughout our country.

We are now just a few short weeks away from the Opening Ceremony of the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia. We want to wish all of our Olympians and Paralympians the best of luck. Go Team USA!

Yours in Olympic Spirit,

Gary Hall Sr.

U. S. Olympians and Paralympians Association President
With the clock ticking rapidly toward the start of the Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games, American athletes are getting their final preparations ready. Some athletes have already earned nominations to compete in Sochi; others are awaiting their Olympic Trials; and still others are using the most of each day between now and February to be healthy enough to compete on the biggest stage of their careers.

In the final ramp up to the Sochi Games, here is a countdown of 14 of the biggest storylines to follow in Sochi:

14.) In addition to the traditional Olympic Winter Games sports such as alpine skiing and figure skating, there will be several new sports to check out in Sochi. The 2014 Olympic Winter Games will mark the debut of several new events: ski halfpipe (men’s and women’s), ski slopestyle (men’s and women’s), snowboard slopestyle (men’s and women’s), snowboard parallel special slalom (men’s and women’s), women’s ski jumping, biathlon mixed relay, luge team relay and a figure skating team event. The new events actually get a jump on the competition. The figure skating team event begins Feb. 6 – a day before the Opening Ceremony.

13.) Will Team USA make Olympic history in biathlon and cross-country skiing? The United States has never medaled in the Olympic Winter Games in biathlon and has not earned an Olympic cross-country medal since Bill Koch claimed the silver medal in 1976. Among the U.S. athletes hoping to change the course of history for Team USA in Sochi are Tim Burke and Kikkan Randall.

Burke, a two-time Olympian, captured the first world championship medal won by a U.S. biathlete in 26 years when he earned them silver medal in the men’s 20-kilometer individual race at the 2013 IBU World Championships.

Randall dominated the 2012-13 world cup season, finishing first in the final sprint standings and third in the overall standings, marking the highest ranking for a U.S. female cross-country skier in history. She also teamed with Jesse Diggins to capture the first U.S. team sprint gold medal at the 2013 World Championships.

12.) There will be several American athletes hoping to make repeat trips to the top of the medal podium. Three of them have a chance to win a third consecutive gold medal in Sochi: Shaun White, Shani Davis and Seth Wescott. White enters Sochi having won two Olympic titles in snowboarding’s halfpipe. He is expected to compete in halfpipe and slopestyle events at the 2014 Games. Davis, a speedskater, is the two-time defending Olympic champion in the 1,000-meter event. Wescott is the only man to win the snowboardcross Olympic gold medal since the event made its Olympic debut in 2006.

Steven Holcomb will also be considered as a top medal contender in Sochi.

11.) Speaking of returns to the medal stand, bobsledder Steven Holcomb will also be considered as a top medal contender in Sochi. The pilot of the “Night Train” at the Vancouver Games in 2010, he led the U.S. to its first Olympic gold medal in the men’s four-man bobsled
since 1948. He hopes to strike gold in the four-man and two-man events.

10.) Lolo Jones, an Olympian who represented Team USA in track & field at two Olympic Games, is hoping to suit up once again, only this time as a bobsledder. A national team member, it appears Jones is on track to achieve that goal.

9.) One of the biggest names in American skiing, Bode Miller, is back on the slopes. If he makes the 2014 U.S. Olympic Team, it will mark his fifth trip to the Olympic Winter Games. Sidelined for 20 months after missing last season due to a knee injury, Miller returned to the slopes for the 2013-14 world cup season. In his previous four trips to the Olympic Winter Games, Miller has earned five medals (1 gold, 3 silvers, 1 bronze).

Miller isn’t the only men’s skier to watch. Another American trying to reach the medal podium is Ted Ligety. The 2006 Olympic gold medalist in the combined won three world championship gold medals in last year, earning him the USOC’s SportsMan of the Year award. Ligety opened the 2013-14 world cup season with a giant slalom victory in Soelden, Austria.

8.) Also returning to the Olympic stage in 2014 is Nordic combined skier Billy Demong, who will try to repeat his medal-winning performance from 2010. In Vancouver, Demong became the first American to win an Olympic gold medal in a Nordic combined event (10-kilometer large hill), and he was also part of the 4x5-kilometer team that captured the silver medal. Hours after winning his gold medal, he proposed to longtime girlfriend, Katie Koczynski. The couple was married in the Olympic city of Lake Placid, N.Y., in July 2010. As if all of that isn’t enough, Demong was selected as the U.S. flag bearer for the 2010 Closing Ceremony.

7.) Meryl Davis and Charlie White, childhood friends who became ice dancing partners in 1997, are now trying to become the first American team to win an Olympic gold medal in ice dancing. They earned a silver medal at the 2010 Vancouver Games, finishing behind their training partners, Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir of Canada. Davis and White have won two world titles since Vancouver and hope to turn the tables on their Canadian rivals in Sochi.

6.) Team USA’s men’s ice hockey team left Vancouver with a silver medal and has been waiting ever since for a shot at redemption in Sochi. The U.S. lost, 3-2, in overtime to Canada, in an extremely emotional game. The Americans, have not won an Olympic gold medal in men’s ice hockey since the famed “Miracle on Ice” squad did so in 1980. The Miracle on Ice team played one of the most memorable games in Olympic history, beating the Soviet Union en route to the gold medal. Can the 2014 U.S. Olympic Team return to the top of the medal stand in Russia of all places?

5.) Men’s ice hockey isn’t the only hockey team seeking redemption in Sochi. Team USA’s women’s squad also finished the 2010 Olympic Winter Games with a...
silver medal and a loss to Canada. The U.S. won the first Olympic women's ice hockey gold medal in 1998. With Katey Stone – the first woman to coach the women's Olympic team – at the helm, the U.S. is hoping to make their own Olympic history in Sochi.

4.) Can't make it to Sochi? There will be plenty of television coverage of both the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Beginning Thursday, Feb. 6, with preliminary rounds in snowboarding, freestyle skiing and figure skating, every phase of competition from all 15 sports on the Sochi program – including each medal-winning performance for all 98 events – will be streamed live on NBCOlympics.com and via the NBC Sports Live Extra mobile app. NBC also will broadcast 50 hours of the Paralympic Winter Games. And, for the first time, all events will be live streamed on TeamUSA.org. NBC and NBC Sports Network will combine to televise 50 hours of coverage for the 2014 Paralympic Winter Games, starting with the Opening Ceremony on March 7. It will be followed by daily coverage of all five Paralympic sports in the Sochi program, before the Closing Ceremony is broadcast March 16.

3.) Women's ski jumping will be making its Olympic debut in Sochi. After a long battle for inclusion in the Olympic Winter Games, Team USA's women's ski jumpers are considered among the best in the world. Among those to watch are Lindsay Van, Jessica Jerome and Sarah Hendrickson. Hendrickson, the 2013 world champion, was considered the frontrunner for the gold medal in Sochi until she injured her knee in a training run last August. That said, her doctors gave her some good news in early December, telling her, “There is absolutely nothing that will stop you from jumping in January.”

2.) Lindsey Vonn was arguably the biggest name to follow in Sochi but when she announced her knee injury would be too much for her to compete in the upcoming Winter Games, an American teenager named Mikaela Shiffrin likely will garner much of the spotlight. Shiffrin, 18, is the world champion in the slalom and is expected to contend for a medal in that event in Sochi. Named the FIS Alpine World Cup Rookie of the Year last season, Shiffrin made her world cup debut when she was just 15.

1.) Of course, one of the biggest stories to follow in Sochi will be how many medals Team USA will garner in both the Olympic Winter Games (Feb. 7-23) and Paralympic Winter Games (March 7-16). Nearly four years ago in Vancouver, the 2010 U.S. Olympic Team won the most medals of any country with 37 (9 golds, 15 silvers, 13 bronzes). Team USA captured 13 medals at the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.
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Help drive the Olympic dream while showing your support of TEAM USA by purchasing a U.S. Olympic license plate for your vehicle(s). These license plates feature the USA/5-Ring logo in full color, and most states include the tag-line “Go Team USA” while others use the tag-line “Olympic Spirit”.

Your U.S. Olympic license plate purchase may be tax deductible. Please consult a tax advisor for more information.

Twelve states currently offer Olympic license plates including California, Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Texas. Please visit our website at teamusa.org/LicensePlates for more specific information about the plates in each state. Also, if your state doesn’t currently offer an Olympic plate you can register at this site to receive an email once the plates are available.

If you would like to help us create a new Olympic license plate program in your state, please contact Mr. Jeff Kleinschmidt, Manager, State Outreach Programs via email at Jeffery.Kleinschmidt@usoc.org or by telephone at 719-373-7203.

teamusa.org/LicensePlates
This past quarter saw the design of the United States Olympic Committee Archives, and the appointment of a general contractor to create the archives. The USOC anticipates moving into the new archives in summer 2014.

The new archives will be three times the size of the existing storage area, with plans for compact shelving, art storage, a separate photograph room and a vault. The USOC’s records and artifacts are extremely important, and therefore, the facility will follow the National Archives standards for temperature and humidity control. Those who attended the 2013 U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Assembly this year, saw the plans for the new archives as well as two displays of historic artifacts.

One of my goals as archivist is to capture the history of the Olympic and Paralympic movements in the United States, and one of the best ways I can do this is through artifacts donated by Olympians and Paralympians. Artifacts include not only the medals and torches from each Olympiad; but also, items of clothing, equipment and memorabilia collected during the Games. I have already had the pleasure of discussing my goals with several Olympians and Paralympians to preserve their artifacts for posterity and use them to tell a personal history of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

One donation the USOC received this past quarter came from George Killian, former FIBA president, IOC member, USOC board member and FISU president. Along with four boxes of manuscript records, photographs of men’s and women’s U.S. Olympic basketball teams and World University Games records, Killian also donated his Barcelona 1992 and Nagano 1998 participation medals, as well as his 107th IOC Session Nagano 1998 badge. With his donation, the USOC Archives is close to having a complete set of participation medals. If you have a participation medal – or any other items – that you would like to donate to the USOC Archives, please contact me at Teresa.Hedgpeth@usoc.org.
ATTENTION OLYMPIANS!!!

PLANNING TO ATTEND THE SOCHI 2014 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES?

Join us at USA House!
The anticipation and excitement of the 2014 Olympic Winter Games is upon us with less than four months to go until the Opening Ceremony. As you finalize your travel arrangements, Team USA athletes are in the midst of final preparations to compete on the world’s biggest stage.

We are looking forward to hosting you in Sochi, Russia, at the XXII Olympic Winter Games. The USA House Business & Hospitality Center will serve as the hub of the USOC’s 2014 hospitality operation.

- USA House will be located in the Coastal Cluster, situated between Fisht Olympic Stadium and the food court in the heart of the Olympic Park.
- USA House will be open from 10-12 a.m. on Feb. 8-23, 2013. Hours of operation for Feb. 7 have yet to be announced.
- Daily hospitality will include first-class food and beverage services, live Olympic Winter Games coverage, private event space and much more.

Please note, there are several requirements you need in order to attend the Games and to access the Olympic Park

- **Visa:** U.S. citizens require a Russian visa to gain access into the country. A visa can take approximately 20 BUSINESS DAYS to process. Please note, the Thanksgiving holiday, U.S. Christmas holiday and the Russian Christmas Holiday (January 6-10) will prolong this process, so we recommend you take the necessary measures as soon as possible.

- **Spectator Pass:** Every person attending the Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games will require a spectator pass and will need to register for said pass online. The online registration does require an Olympic event ticket, so consult with your ticket provider regarding the process. All spectators are required to wear this pass at all times at official Games venues.

- **Olympic Park Pass:** In order to access the Olympic Park, you will need one of two things in addition to your spectator pass: 1) A ticket to a sporting event, scheduled to take place within the Olympic Park that day; OR 2) An Olympic Park Pass, which can only be used for one entry on a particular day. More information regarding how to acquire a Park Pass will be forthcoming.

As you can see, there are very specific requirements regarding access at the Sochi Games. To help the USOC accommodate you during your stay, we ask all guests who are planning to visit USA House in Sochi, register with the USOA office no later than January 20, 2014. Please submit your first and last name, a complete list of your guests, and the dates you plan to be Sochi to Christine Taylor at Christine.Taylor@usoc.org.

Each registered Olympian and Paralympian will receive an all access pass to USA House, which is valid for Feb. 7-23. You will also receive two day passes for guests. Please provide the name of your guest(s) and the date(s) they plan to visit USA House (if you don’t know the dates, please just send their name). You may pick up your passes at USA House, beginning Feb. 7.
Dr. Sammy Lee
(Diving, 1948, 1952)

Dr. Sammy Lee is now the third Korean American to have an institution of primary learning named after him in the Los Angeles Unified School District. But unlike others who share this honor, the two-time Olympic gold medalist in diving is still alive to witness the legacy of his achievement.

And on Nov. 12, 2013, during the official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Dr. Sammy Lee Medical and Health Science Elementary Magnet School, the 93-year-old demonstrated that he still has the spirit and passion of a champion, despite being confined to a wheelchair. His raconteur skills have not abated, as he shared a story from his days in medical school, telling the crowd that he was the worse student in his class.

“But I was the best diver in the class,” he quickly added.

The students serenaded Lee with a rendition of “Gangnam Style,” with customized lyrics in his honor. Hearing a bunch of third-graders sing a couplet like, “You overcame so much discrimination/ Your perseverance became an inspiration,” elicited many a smile in the audience.

Lee acknowledged that there is a bright future ahead for these youth. “One day,” he said, “this school will be named after one of you.”

Dr. Lee was the first Asian-American to win a gold medal for the United States, winning the 10-meter platform competition at the London 1948 and Helsinki 1952 Olympic Games.

The native of Fresno, Calif., was already a physician when he won his gold medals, having earned a medical degree from the University of Southern California in 1947. He also served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during the Korean War.

Anne Warner Cribbs
(Swimming, 1960)

It’s one thing to be crowned an Olympic goddess once in your life, but twice?

That’s the story of Anne Warner Cribbs, who won gold at the 1960 Olympic Games and later became the 27th recipient of the Athena Award by the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce.

Now head of Cribbs & Company and the CEO of Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee, Cribbs was recently honored at the Garden Court Hotel.

“Who has been a trailblazer more than Anne?” asked longtime friend and colleague, Gary Cavalli, as he introduced Cribbs, citing her parenting of nine children, graduation from Stanford University, and founding of the women’s American Basketball League.

Cribbs’ swimming career started when she was 6 years old at Burgess Pool in Menlo Park.

Back then, she said, “I had a bathing suit with a skirt” – and swim goggles hadn’t been invented yet. She did so well, she started training, and at age 14, she won a gold medal at the 1959 Pan American Games.

A year later, she competed at the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome. Holder of American records in both the 100- and 200-meter breaststroke, she placed fifth in the 200 in Rome, and was a member of the gold medal-winning, 400-meter medley relay.
“I was so proud to represent my country,” she said.

Cribbs retired from competitive swimming at age 15. Since then, her professional career has focused on serving sports and the community. In 1995, she co-founded the American Basketball League – the first women’s professional basketball league in the United States. During its existence, the ABL strove to set the standard for what women’s professional sports could and should become, creating a permanent legacy and changing the paradigm for women’s athletics.

Cribbs also served as the director of the 2011 USA Swimming National and Junior National Championships – the largest national swimming competition, featuring nearly 4,000 swimmers from across the United States. The event was broadcast live on NBC.

Currently, Cribbs continues to serve as chair of the California Senior Games Association and organized the 2012 Bay Area Senior Games/California Senior Games Championships with 2000 athletes and 25 sports.

Her public and community relations firm, Anne Cribbs & Company, has worked with clients ranging from the Rich May Memorial Golf Classic to Sephora Company and Venmundi.com, a live-streaming Internet company.

Cribbs is a frequent guest lecturer at Stanford University School of Business, the Sports Management Program at the University of San Francisco, San Jose State and the University of Pacific. She is also an Olympian adviser to NBC Bay Area.

A California native and current Palo Alto resident, Cribbs earned her associate degree from Foothill College in 1974, receiving the President’s Medal as the outstanding female graduate. Cribbs went on to earn her bachelor’s degree in political science from Stanford University.

She is a past member of the Stanford Athletic Board and has a Block S from Stanford. Cribbs was inducted into the San Jose Sports Hall of Fame in 2003 and is also a member of the San Mateo County Hall of Fame and the Menlo Atherton High School Hall of Fame.

Cribbs also served as the chair of the 40th anniversary of San Francisco’s three-day celebration of ping pong diplomacy. The historic event showcased the Chinese Olympic Committee and the U.S. Table Tennis Team.

In June 2011, Cribbs served as the chair of the 40th anniversary of San Francisco’s three-day celebration of ping pong diplomacy. The historic event showcased the Chinese Olympic Committee and the U.S. Table Tennis Team.

Under Cribbs’ leadership, BASOC organized the 2006 FINA World Masters Championships, featuring 7,800 competitors from 75 countries. She also organized the 2007 World Junior Table Tennis Championships, held at Stanford University, which included 196 competitors from 36 countries. Two years later, she served as president and CEO of the 2009 Summer National Senior Games, which featured 18 medal sports, seven demonstration sports and 10,000 competitors – the largest multi-sport event in the United States.

In June 2011, Cribbs served as the chair of the 40th anniversary of San Francisco’s three-day celebration of ping pong diplomacy. The historic event showcased the Chinese Olympic Committee and the U.S. Table Tennis Team.

Anne Warner Cribbs
We can help you prepare for what’s next

DeVry University and our Keller Graduate School of Management can help you achieve your educational goals while you pursue your Olympic dreams. DeVry University is proud to be an official education provider of the United States Olympic Committee. As part of the Olympic and Paralympic family, you may qualify for financial assistance that can help make it possible for you to stay on track toward your Olympic goals and get ready for what comes next.

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Lawrence Shryes "Larry" Banner  
(Gymnastics, 1960, 1964)

Larry Banner passed away on Nov. 28, 2013. He was 77 years old.

He died peacefully at home in Modesto, Calif., surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Los Angeles, to Eldren O. Banner and Catherine Gillette LaVette, and resided in Modesto for 23 years.

His parents and his brother, Terrance O. Banner, preceded him in death. He is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Martha Estella Banner; his sons, Eric Alexander Banner and Bret Christian Banner; his grandchildren, Emalee Fern Banner and Ryan Christopher Banner; and his sister, Sherry Daniels.

At age seven, he was diagnosed with polio, but survived. He spent nearly one year in a wheelchair and later used forearm crutches. His spine was so deformed that he had to attend special physical education classes up to the 10th grade. By his junior year, he was cleared to participate in sports, competing in gymnastics, swimming, football and track at Van Nuys High School.


He earned his bachelors of science from University of California Los Angeles in 1958, his general secondary teaching credential at California State University at Northridge in 1960, his master of arts from California State University at Long Beach in 1966, and his Ed.D. from Arizona State University with a major in Clinical Reading Education. He graduated first in his doctoral class and was later was honored with an Honorary Ph.D. in psychology. He served as a psychometrist, outpatient clinician, consultant, and teacher at both the secondary and university levels. As a consultant, he worked for school districts, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the Department of Army-Forces Command, where he researched ways in which classroom and field training could complement one another.

Such great achievements at the end of one's life should be noted, but he always said that there was no greater honor and blessing than the love of his family and God. He had a very generous heart and a beautiful smile. If someone was in need, he was there. He loved playing golf and going fishing with his sons. His wife, Martha, thanks the Lord for giving her such a loving husband for 47 years. His sons said, "We will miss you Pop. We love you so much. You are our hero."

Walter Bellamy  
(Basketball, 1960)

Walter Bellamy passed away on Nov. 2, 2013. He was 74 years old.

The Indiana University star aided the U.S. to the gold medal at the 1960 Olympic Games. The following year, he was the first overall pick in by the Chicago Packers. He was the rookie of the year with Chicago, averaging 31.6 points and 19.0 rebounds per game. He also played for the Baltimore Bullets, New York Knicks, Detroit Pistons, and the New Orleans Jazz. He played in four All-Star games and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1993.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Helen Hollie Ragland Bellamy; son, Derrin (Sherrika) Bellamy, Sr.; two grandsons, Derrin Bellamy II and Drew Bellamy; mother, Theo Bellamy; brother, Ronnie Bellamy; goddaughter, Shawn (Keith) Smith; and in-laws, Hildred McCormick,
Wayne (Dorcas) Ragland, Samuel (Minnie) Ragland, Barbara (Paris) Jones, Carlton (Shirley) Ragland, Alvin (Hilda) Ragland, Katherine Bell;.

He will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

James Edward “Jim” Bradford
(Weightlifting, 1952, 1960)

James Bradford passed away on Sept. 13, 2013. He was 85 years old.

Jim Bradford has always considered himself a strong man, more than a weightlifter. He prided himself in being able to compete with the best weightlifters in the world with limited technique and one of the strictest pressing forms of any athlete in the world at the time. He won two national titles and earned silver medals at four world championships, and two Olympic Games (1952, 1960).

While competing at the 1951 World Championships, he declined to attempt his final lift after reigning champion John Davis was injured in competition. His decision has gone down as one of the greatest displays of sportsmanship in the history of sport.

He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Grace J. Robertson Bradford; three children, James E. Bradford Jr., Sharleen Bradford Kavetski and Jo Bradford; six grandchildren, Irene, Kimberly, Edward, Andrew, Vasili and Anton; and one great-grandchild. Other relatives include a devoted son-in-law, Sasha, and loving nephews, nieces and cousins.

An Olympic silver medalist, Korean war veteran and long-time Library of Congress employee, Bradford will be missed by friends, old weightlifting buddies and fans.

John Dendahl
(Skiing, 1960)

John Dendahl passed away on Nov. 9, 2013. He was 75 years old.

He ran for governor in 1994 but lost to then-political newcomer Gary Johnson, who went on to win the general election that year. That same year, Dendahl was elected state Republican Party chairman, and he and Johnson became friends.

John Dendahl

Known as an articulate and combative conservative, Dendahl served as GOP chairman from 1994-2003.

Michael Donald “Mike” Gallagher
(Skiing, 1964, 1968, 1972)

Michael Gallagher passed away on Oct. 3, 2013. He was 72 years old. His passing has left a large hole in many hearts, both in this country and abroad. He was an inspiration to many in the sport of cross-country skiing.

He graduated from Rutland High School in 1959. He attended Colorado University in Boulder on an athletic scholarship and earned his bachelor’s degree from Castleton State College in 1967.
He developed a taste for alpine ski racing as a young man. While he excelled in those disciplines, he also pursued cross-country skiing as it complemented his natural ability for running. As a racer he made three Olympic teams and three FIS World Championship teams, earning nine national titles. His most cherished result was placing 19th at the Holmenkollen 50-kilometer classic in 1968.

He went on to serve as head coach for the U.S. Ski Team from 1980-86. He also enjoyed several years as a highly skilled bicycle racer. Later in his career, he served as the Nordic skiing director at the Mountain Top Inn and also taught skiing at Mountain Meadows. In addition, he coached high-school level skiing for 17 seasons.

In 1988, he was inducted to the National Ski Hall of Fame, as well as the Castleton State College Athletic Hall of Fame. While attending Castleton and continuing to train for the 1968 Olympic Games, he also competed in track & field, setting New England State college records in the 880 meters, one mile and two-mile events.

In 2007, he was inducted to the Vermont Ski Museum Hall of Fame for his contributions to the Nordic ski industry; and in 2011, he was inducted to the Mount Washington Road Race Hall of Fame. He was the first person to win the road race four times (1968-1971).

He will best be remembered for his love of life, family, and storytelling; the Irish songs that he sang with gusto in the sauna; his kind and sentimental side, and his toughness. Never did he tire of talking about cross-country skiing, and never did those who knew him tire of listening.

He is survived by his wife, Tyna Baird Gallagher; his sons, Jesse and Sean; and his grandson, Andrew.

Thomas Walter Johnson
(Canoe/Kayak coach, 1972)

Thomas Walter Johnson was born in Millsap, Texas, to Thomas Jasper Johnson and Bessie Allen Johnson on May 2, 1918. He passed away on Aug. 23, 2013, with his daughter, Leanne, by his side.

During high school and after graduation he worked for Hoffman Hardware. In 1937, he married his high school sweetheart, Virginia Lee, and the couple had three beautiful children. That year was also the beginning of his career as a Los Angeles County Fireman – a job he loved until he was injured on the job and retired.

He was a legend in the world of “paddling” canoes and kayaks. He built his first canoe at the age of 19, followed by lucite, fiberglass, and plastic models used today in flat water Olympic racing, Hawaiian Outrigger and Eskimo Canoe (kayak) racing.

In 1972, he started an Olympic training camp at what was then known as Peanut Butter Park. He operated the camp – while intermittently attending the Olympics Games as a coach and manager – for more than 20 years. The first year the camp was in operation, eight of his 13 trainees represented the U.S. at the Munich 1972 Olympic Games.

He was also an avid fisherman and hunter and enjoyed making duck decoys. He was
Robert A. (Bob) Kurland
(Basketball, 1948, 1952)

Robert Kurland passed away on Sept. 29, 2013. He was 88 years old.

As an amateur, Bob competed at both the London 1948 Olympic Games and the Helsinki 1952 Olympic Games, leading the U.S. to two Olympic gold medals.

Kurland, a pioneering big man, was one of the first seven-footers in college basketball history. He is one of three former representatives from Oklahoma State (Oklahoma A&M) in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, and one of four in the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame.

He was a consensus first-team All-American for OSU for three-straight seasons (1944-45-46), and led the then-Aggies to back-to-back national championships in 1945 and 1946, making OSU the first program in NCAA history to win consecutive national titles in the sport.

He was voted the Outstanding Player of the NCAA tournament in both 1945 and 1946 – one of just five players in Division I history to claim that accomplishment. He was named the national player of the year by the Helms Foundation in 1946.

He continued his basketball playing career with the Phillips 66ers of the Amateur Athletic Union, opting for a career with Phillips Petroleum rather than the fledgling world of professional basketball. He was a six-time AAU All-American for the Bartlesville-based team and led it to four AAU championships in a five-year span.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Barbara, four children and seven grandchildren.

Carl Lovsted
(Rowing, 1952)

Carl Lovsted passed away on Nov. 8, 2013. He was 83 years old.

Lovsted felt blessed to be in a position to help others and always wanted to give something back to the community. It brought him joy to improve the quality of someone’s day. He will be remembered for his warm smile, big heart, integrity and strong work ethic. He had a positive attitude, encouraged others and felt blessed to have enjoyed fulfilling life experiences and strong friendships.

Lovsted valued his connections with the University of Washington Crew program, Greenlake Crew, Overlake Hospital, Childhaven, Young Life, Union Gospel Mission and Vine Maple Place. He loved spending time in his garden nurturing flowers to provide colorful flower bouquets. He enjoyed time with his family, his grandchildren and friends. His family has been enriched by his relationships.

He was a member of the Rowing Stewards at the University of Washington and a strong supporter of the Green Lake Crew.
as he was a participant in both programs.

He attended Franklin High School, then the University of Washington from 1948-1952, graduating with a degree in business. He

was a member of the university rowing program and earned a bronze medal at the Helsinki 1952 Games.

He worked in the insurance industry for more than 40 years, establishing Lovsted Insurance, now Lovsted/Worthington Insurance.

He is survived by his wife Carrie, his sister, Liz Van Pelt, his daughter Karen Williams and her husband Brad; his sons, Carl III, and Jim and his wife Lisa; and his grandchildren Julie, Kimmy, Laura, Christie, Carl IV, Lindsey, Kate and Matthew.

John Matchefts
(Ice Hockey, 1956)

John Matchefts passed away on Nov. 10, 2013. He was 82 years old.

Matchefts was an instructor and ice hockey coach (32 years), including 10 years at the high school level followed by stints at Colorado College and the United States Air Force Academy. After retiring from coaching, Matchefts continued to coach AFA women’s golf and remained an instructor at the Academy until his retirement.

He was a 1949 graduate of Eveleth High School and a 1953 graduate of the University of Michigan. While in Ann Arbor, Mich., he aided the Wolverines to three consecutive national titles (1951-53) and was named the Most Outstanding Player of the 1953 NCAA Men’s Ice Hockey Tournament. He earned All-America honors for all three seasons and aided the U.S. in capturing the silver medal at the 1956 Olympic Games. Following his illustrious career, he was inducted into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame in 1991.

Before beginning his coaching career, he served his country in the United States Marine Corps.


He is survived by his daughter; his grandchildren: Ceresa, Alena and Cael Freehling; brother, Dr. James N. Matchefts, DDS of Eveleth, Minn; eight nieces and nephews, and nine godchildren.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Josephine Ann (Matchefts) Hill, John Hill, and close cousins and friends.

Matchefts will be best remembered as an outstanding athlete and respected coach, for his strength, perseverance, passion, the love he had for the game, his amazing leadership abilities, the personal investment he made in all of his players and family, for his love of Siberian Huskies, and his 1930 Ford Model A, which he restored. He was a beloved father, husband, grandpa, brother, friend, player and coach.
1. The awarding of the Milt Campbell plaque to the Mayor of Plainfield, N.J., Sharon Robinson-Briggs, who accepted on behalf of the family, took place on Oct. 5, 2013. Also shown are members of the 5k committee including: Payton Hines, track coach; Darryl Clark, event founder; and Olympian, John Marshall (track & field, 1984).

2. The Northern California Olympians & Paralympians Chapter were a part of the Fantasy Flight with United Airlines. L-R; Anne Warner Criibs, Julian Munoz, Bev Brockway, Stacey Blumer, Kristi Yamaguchi and friends.

4. Wickliffe “Wick” Wade Walker (canoe/kayak, 1972) is enjoying his newly purchased BMW.

5. On Nov. 18, 2013, members of the New York Athletic Club Team Handball team were honored at the Champions Dinner held at the historic institution adjacent to Central Park. The annual dinner is held by the NYAC to celebrate its Olympic, world and national championship teams. The keynote speaker was Bill Cowher, former coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers and CBS color commentator.

Standing, left to right: Joe Fitzgerald, Daniel Capparelli, Laszlo Jurak, Robert Hillery, Divine Jackson, Chris Cappelmann, William Harrison, Brad Nelson, Jerry Marshall, and Miki Filoposki; seated, left to right – Branislav Bednarik, Matt Van Houten, Thomas V. Fitzgerald and Thomas Harper.

Prior to the event, Tom Fitzgerald, Brad Nelson and Matt Van Houten participated in the NYAC Saturday Morning Program, and taught the sport of team handball to 220 kids between the ages of 6 and 12.
Alabama Olympians & Paralympians
President: Jennifer Chandler Stevenson (diving, 1976)
(205) 313-7436

Arizona Olympians & Paralympians
Election Pending

Colorado Olympians & Paralympians
President: Jeff Olson (skiing, 1988, 1992)
(303) 912-2350

Florida Olympians
President: Jim Millns (figure skating, 1976)
(727) 741-2662

Georgia Olympians & Paralympians
President: Bob Pickens (wrestling, 1964)
(773) 425-3254

Hawaii Olympians
President: Kathy Hammond Lohman (track & field, 1972)
(808) 395-2446

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

Indiana Olympians
President: Ollan Cassell (track & field, 1964)
(317) 466-0444

Michigan Olympians & Paralympians
President: Jud Brown Clarke (track & field, 1984)
(517) 881-6710

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

Missouri/Illinois Olympians & Paralympians
President: John Carenza (soccer, 1972)
(314) 846-4124

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

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