

TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF PRESS RELEASE

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TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF WELCOMES MEDALISTS and PARTICIPANTS from PAST DEAFLYMPICS – MARCH 21

ON EXHIBIT THROUGH JUNE 6, TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF SHOWCASES THE HISTORY OF TEXAS DEAFLYMPIANS FROM 1957- 2013

Austin, Texas – March 21, 2014 Former medalists, athletes and coaches – all with ties to the Texas School for the Deaf (TSD) - who have attended the Deaflympic Games, visit the school today for a celebration to honor home state sports heroes who have participated in the international Deaf games over the last 57 years.

The Deaflympics began in 1924.

The U.S. first competed at the Deaflympics in 1957, with a track and field team that included two TSD staff members and one TSD student at the time: Raymond Butler - TSD's Athletic Director (1949-1962), Ruth Seeger - TSD PE teacher (1949-1986), who was later the U.S.A. women's track and field coach from 1965 to 1989, and Sammy Oates - a TSD senior who set sporting records at TSD, which have yet to be matched today, in football and track and field events.

Since 1957 when the Deaflympics were held in Rome, TSD has had representatives at all summer Games, with Texans bringing home more than 100 medals over the years in a variety of sports.

"In fact, says TSD Athletic Director, Chris Hamilton, "we are proud that TSD boasts the most medals won by participants with ties to any U.S. school for students who are deaf and hard of hearing."

Hamilton participated in two Deaflympics, in 2001 as a member of the U.S. handball team, and in 2009, he was the team's head coach.

Most recently, 10 participants with ties to TSD attended the 2013 Deaflympic Games in Sophia Bulgaria, and brought more precious metal back to Texas than any other school for deaf students in America.

To further commemorate these Deaflympians, TSD's exhibit at the school's Heritage Center will be on display through June 6.

TSD proudly invites the community to visit its latest historical collection, "TSD at the Deaflympics", featuring Deaflympic medals, pins, memorabilia, uniforms and banners - chronicling TSD members who have participated in the Deaflympic Games, from 1957 to 2013.

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WHAT: Saluting Our Past Deaflympians

WHEN: Friday, March 21, 2014
Two assemblies: 9:00 am and 10:00 am

Welcome: *Claire Bugen* - Superintendent, TSD

Remarks: *Jack Lamberton* - President, U.S.A. Deaf Sports Federation (USADSF)
Dr. Bobbie Beth Scoggins - TSD class of 1973, Two-time Deaflympian, First president of the USADSF, first deaf female torchbearer for the International Olympic Games in Athena (2004) representing the deaf and hard of hearing community
Franna Camenisch - TSD Class of 1965, Curator-TSD Heritage Center Museum

Presentation of Texas' Deaflympians

11:00 am Museum exhibit tour: "TSD at the Deaflympics"

WHERE: R.L. Davis Auditorium and Heritage Center
Texas School for the Deaf
1102 South Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78704

MORE: Voice interpreters will be provided.

Assemblies followed by a guided tour of the TSD Heritage Center's exhibit: "TSD at the Deaflympics" - on display and open to the public through June 6 - a comprehensive and fascinating collection chronicling the history of Texans participating in the Deaflympic Games, from 1957 through 2013. To schedule a museum tour, please contact by email: heritage.center@tsd.state.tx.us.

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ABOUT THE TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (TSD)

The Texas School for the Deaf is the oldest continuously operating public school in Texas. Educating deaf and hard of hearing students of Texas since 1856, the campus also provides outreach and educational resources for students, their families and professionals in the field throughout the state of Texas. With educational excellence and a strong belief in a culture and community at TSD, students form a unique identity based on their individual strengths and talents. TSD is an environment where students learn, grow, and belong. For more information about the Texas School for the Deaf, visit <http://www.tsd.state.tx.us/>.

ABOUT THE DEAFLYMPICS

The summer and winter Deaflympics are elite level International Olympic Committee (IOC)-sanctioned events, organized by the Comité International des Sports des Sourds (CISS - the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf), since 1924. The Deaflympics became the first-ever international sporting event for athletes with disabilities. Historically, the games were called the International Games for the Deaf until 1965, and were then known as the World Games for the Deaf, until 2000, when the name Deaflympics was adopted. For more, visit: www.deaflympics.com.