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TEAM

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DOCUMENTS

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HEARING
BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON
BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN AFFAIRS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SIXTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

H.R. 7482

A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
STATES TO PRESENT ON BEHALF OF CONGRESS A SPECIALLY
STRUCK GOLD-PLATED MEDAL TO THE UNITED STATES
SUMMER OLYMPIC TEAM OF 1980

JUNE 25, 1980

Serial No. 96-59

Printed for the use of the
Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs



U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1980

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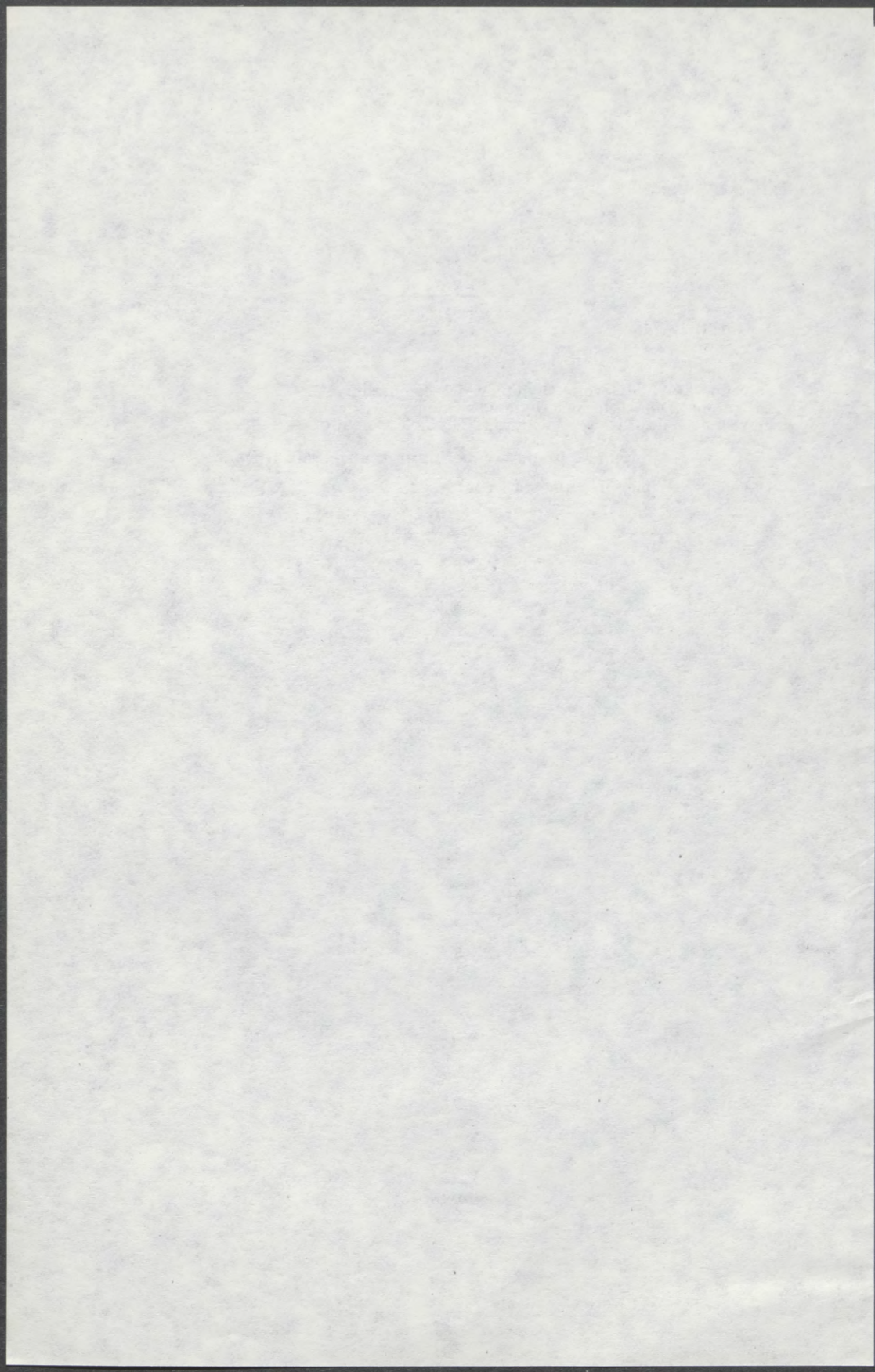
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MEDALS FOR THE 1980 U.S. SUMMER OLYMPIC TEAM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1980

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS OF THE
COMMITTEE ON BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 9:40 a.m. in room 2128, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Frank Annunzio (chairman of the subcommittee), presiding.

Present: Representatives Annunzio, Vento, and Evans of Delaware.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. The meeting of the subcommittee will come to order. This morning the subcommittee is meeting to hear testimony on H.R. 7482, legislation to authorize the President of the United States to present, on behalf of the Congress, a specially struck gold-plated medal to the U.S. Summer Olympic Team of 1980. This is a unique bill in many ways.

The 650 medals would be the largest number ever authorized by Congress. And in addition, the legislation has been cosponsored by more than half of the Members of the House of Representatives. The legislation was introduced on June 4, and in roughly 20 days a majority of House Members cosponsored the bill.

I recall very few bills that ever received a majority of cosponsors in such a short period of time. This certainly indicates the eagerness with which the House supports our Olympic efforts. And I would add, that support has a broad bipartisan basis.

Although we will be considering H.R. 7482 today, I would also like to point out that there were two other Olympic medal bills. The first was introduced on February 25 by our distinguished colleague, a member of this subcommittee, Mr. Vento. On May 9, the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. Sawyer, also introduced an Olympic medal bill.

I commend both of these gentlemen for their contributions to the legislation and for their cooperation in helping the efforts of H.R. 7482.

Although the U.S. Olympic team will not participate in the Moscow games, I do not want to leave the impression that H.R. 7482 is designed to recognize athletes for their participation in the boycott. Rather, this legislation is designed to recognize the special athletic abilities of young men and women who have trained long and hard in order to make the U.S. Olympic team.

It is designed to recognize the thousands of hours of training that every athlete has put into his or her sport. It is designed to recognize the pain and frustration, and in many cases the boredom of practice which must be faced and conquered in order to reach the level of excellence required to represent one's country on the Olympic team.

There are literally millions of amateur athletes in this country, but only a few of those are good enough to make our Olympic team. It is for those few great athletes that we meet here today to discuss this legislation.

I firmly believe that making the Olympic team is reason enough to earn a medal. Stop and consider that in each Olympic event only three medals are awarded. Only a fraction of those athletes who compete in Olympic games win medals. And in some cases, the margin for winning or losing a medal can be as little as one one-hundredth of a second or one-hundredth of a point.

[The text of H.R. 7482 follows:]

96TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7482

To authorize the President of the United States to present on behalf of Congress a specially struck gold-plated medal to the United States Summer Olympic Team of 1980.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 4, 1980

Mr. ANNUNZIO (for himself, Mr. VENTO, and Mr. FAUNTROY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the President of the United States to present on behalf of Congress a specially struck gold-plated medal to the United States Summer Olympic Team of 1980.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That (a) the President of the United States is authorized to
4 present a gold-plated medal of appropriate design, on behalf
5 of the Congress, to those athletes selected through the Olym-
6 pic trial process to represent the United States in the summer
7 Olympics of 1980, in recognition of their outstanding athletic

1 achievements and of their determination in the pursuit of ex-
2 cellence. For such purpose, the Secretary of the Treasury is
3 authorized and directed to cause to be stricken six hundred
4 and fifty gold-plated medals with suitable emblems, devices,
5 and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary of the
6 Treasury.

7 (b) The medals provided for in this Act are national
8 medals for the purpose of section 3551 of the Revised Stat-
9 utes (31 U.S.C. 368).

10 (c) Funds to carry out the provisions of this Act, which
11 shall not exceed \$50,000, shall be available only from
12 amounts appropriated to carry out activities under the Ama-
13 teur Sports Act of 1978.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Certainly our witnesses this morning can describe what it means to be on an Olympic team. I am proud to have served in the House with two former Olympic team members, Bob Mathias of California and Ralph Metcalfe of my own State of Illinois.

I have been equally impressed with the quality of those members already selected for this year's Olympic team. They talk not of a boycott, but of the honor of being selected for the Olympic team. It is just as difficult to make an Olympic team that is staying home as it is to make one that is participating.

We are here today for one purpose, to honor dedication, sacrifice, and most of all athletic achievement.

At this time I want to ask the ranking minority member of the subcommittee, Congressman Thomas B. Evans, Jr., of Delaware, who has been a tower of strength in aiding and assisting me in getting this bill before the subcommittee today, if he would like to make a statement.

Mr. EVANS. I would never miss the opportunity, Mr. Chairman, to say a few words, with such outstanding Americans as witnesses this morning. Welcome.

I would, first of all, like to commend you, Mr. Chairman, for your legislative initiatives to provide for these specially struck bronze, gold-plated medals to be awarded to the U.S. Summer Olympic Team of 1980. Your expeditious handling of this legislation will insure prompt passage in time for the President's presentation of these medals, which, I believe, will take place the latter part of July.

At the outset I would like to express my strong dissatisfaction that in mid-January the International Olympic Committee chose not to accept this country's proposal for a site change. Had the Olympic games been withdrawn from Moscow, U.S. athletes would still have been able to participate in the 1980 summer games and the site change would have been viewed as a sharp rebuke to the Soviet Government by a broad segment of the international community.

There is still much more that the United States can do to counter Soviet aggression. We can rebuild our defense forces, for starters. But in the meantime, our boycott of the Olympic games should get the point across to the Soviets.

U.S. citizens are united on this issue. Republicans and Democrats alike are all concerned that we let Russia know full well that we will not directly or indirectly, explicitly or implicitly, sanction the Soviets' aggression in Afghanistan.

I might add that the Soviet actions in that country are only a culmination of their earlier activities elsewhere.

There are 650 athletes who have earned places on the 1980 summer Olympic team will not be able to participate in the summer Olympics because of our Nation's boycott on the Moscow games. These men and women exemplify the very best that our country has to offer. They have dedicated many years to the challenge of athletic competition and have given tremendous time and energy in their continual struggle to achieve a level of excellence that very few people ever obtain.

These American athletes deserve our Nation's recognition not only for their talent, but for their great personal dedication and sacrifice as well. Certainly, authorizing the presentation of these congressional medals is the very least that we can do.

This legislation would provide for the President of the United States to present on behalf of the Congress 650 special gold-plated medals to those 650 American athletes who have made the 1980 U.S. Summer Olympic Team. These medals would be paid for out of appropriations already made to the U.S. Olympic Committee, at a cost not to exceed \$50,000.

On December 27, 1979, Soviet military forces invaded Afghanistan. The country's ruler was deposed, killed, and replaced by a Soviet puppet regime. Well over 80,000 troops have been engaged in a continuing effort to suppress resistance groups in that country.

Thousands of Afghan citizens have been killed and wounded. An estimated 700,000 people have fled the country and taken refuge in neighboring Pakistan and Iran.

The United Nations General Assembly, the Islamic Conference, the United Nations Human Rights Commission, and the vast majority of the world's governments and parliaments have condemned the Soviet invasion and called for the complete withdrawal of Soviet forces.

In view of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, it would seem only appropriate that, instead of releasing doves during the opening ceremonies to symbolize peace, a flock of vultures should be set free to emphasize that the host country is a nation which is currently engaging in an aggressive war and has refused to comply with the world community's demand to halt its aggression and withdraw its forces from Afghanistan.

The U.S.S.R. has told its people that the decision to award the games to Moscow is:

... testimony to the general recognition of the correctness of the foreign political course of our country, of the enormous service of the Soviet Union in the struggle for peace.

Obviously, a boycott is a very effective expression of world concern and is one way that the Soviet Government cannot hide the truth from its people. Furthermore, any free world athletes who might choose to participate in the Moscow games will most likely be exploited by the Soviets to show that such athletes are actually expressing the true feelings of the people whose nations they represented with respect to Soviet policy.

We as a nation are quite aware of the tremendous sacrifice our athletes are making. However, we cannot allow them to be exploited. The congressional medals that we will be discussing today can never take the place of a genuine gold Olympic medal. However, it is one small way for our Nation to express her gratitude and appreciation to our Olympic athletes.

The 1980 summer Olympics will best be remembered not by who competed, but rather by who did not. The congressional gold medal will serve to remind us and future generations as well that we as a nation will never forsake our principles of freedom, not even for the cherished Olympic gold, silver and bronze medals.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Thank you, Mr. Evans, for an excellent, constructive, and outstanding statement.

Our first witness this morning is Joel Ferrell, Jr. Mr. Ferrell is a native of Iowa, graduating from the University of Iowa and later studied law at the University of Maryland.

Mr. Ferrell is not a stranger to sports. He earned an insignia for his participation in four different sports in high school, and while at the University of Iowa was a member of the basketball team. After college, he was a member of the national basketball champions of the industrial league.

I also understand that Mr. Ferrell plays a pretty mean game of golf and has five holes in one. He is also a participant in the National AAU masters swimming program. Mr. Ferrell has also served as president of the National AAU as well as being chairman of the National AAU Junior Olympic Committee during the 5 years when the program enjoyed its greatest growth. He is also vice president of the U.S. Olympic Committee.

It is truly a pleasure to have you here, Mr. Ferrell. You can either read your statement or summarize. Proceed in your own manner.

STATEMENT OF JOEL FERRELL, JR., VICE PRESIDENT, U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Mr. FERRELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First, on behalf of the officers and members of the U.S. Olympic Committee, I wish to thank you, especially, and your subcommittee for, first, the consideration of the medal proposed, and also for the expeditious manner in which you have progressed along the way in order to accomplish that objective.

For a young athlete to have an objective, he has to have a goal. And as we well recognize, athletics performs a very important part in our lives and teaches those who participate fair competition. It also teaches them to lose gracefully. But above all, it teaches them to strive to win.

Of the incentives, obviously, that our young people have today, there is none that exceeds on the field of athletics that of being a member of an Olympic team. It is truly unfortunate that this year finds us in an area of international concern and strife, where the invasion of a defenseless country by the Russians has posed a problem of national security to this country as well as to many others.

And I know in the vote that the U.S. Olympic Committee made to boycott the Olympics that the primary concern was the overriding fact was the attitude of being a citizen of this country and striving for what is best for this country above all of the objectives on the athletic field.

When they considered the fact that if they participated on the athletic field in Moscow, that might also encourage the situation such that they would have to participate on the battlefield as well—so they made a great personal sacrifice, the athletes, in not going to the Olympics this year.

The two people sitting on my left, Donna de Varona and Willie Davenport, are symbols of excellence and also idols to many young athletes today. Seeing what they have accomplished on the field of athletics and primarily in the Olympic games has provided an opportunity and a goal to work toward for our young athletes today.

The proposed striking of a medal to honor this year's Olympic team in turn also will provide an objective and a goal for our young athletes aged 9, 10, 11 and 12, who are striving now not only to make the 1984 team, but perhaps the 1988 Olympic games as well.

On behalf of the U.S. Olympic Committee, I again wish to thank you for your concern, your expression of desire to provide some recognition for the personal sacrifice and dedication to our members of the 1980 Olympic team, and even those who did not make the team but strove to do so, have made this year.

I personally thank you and thank you for the opportunity to be here today.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Thank you, Mr. Ferrell, for your testimony and your statement this morning.

Our next witness is Willie Davenport. It is a pleasure today to introduce Willie Davenport, a truly amazing athlete. Willie Davenport has competed in five Olympic games: The 1964 Tokyo games, 1968 Mexico City games, 1972 Munich games, 1976 Montreal games, and the 1980 winter games in Lake Placid. He shares the distinction with only one other athlete of competing in both summer and winter games.

While Willie Davenport's main event is the 110-meter high hurdles, he was also seen on the Lake Placid bobsled run last winter.

Eddie Egan is the only other person in Olympic history to compete in both the summer and winter games, as a boxer and a member of the bobsled team.

Mr. Davenport's most frequent competitive event is the 110-meter high hurdles, which also has been described as the most technically demanding track and field event. The high hurdles leave no room for error. The fact that Willie Davenport has represented our country four times in this event is testimony to his fine athletic ability.

It only adds to the statement to say that he won a gold medal in 1968, a bronze in 1976, while placing a respectable fourth in 1972.

Mr. Davenport is currently employed by the mayor's office of Baton Rouge, La. He is a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee Executive Board for Athletes' Advisory Council.

Mr. Davenport, it is a pleasure to have you before the subcommittee today. You can read your statement or you can proceed in whatever manner suits you the best.

STATEMENT OF WILLIE DAVENPORT, FORMER OLYMPIC TRACK COMPETITOR

Mr. DAVENPORT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

After reading all that, I was wondering who you were talking about.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. A great athlete.

Mr. DAVENPORT. It is a pleasure for me—

Chairman ANNUNZIO. And a great American.

Mr. DAVENPORT. Thank you, sir.

It is a pleasure for me to be able to come before this subcommittee today and express my personal feelings. I do have a prepared statement, which I will submit to you. However, I would like to ad lib.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Without objection, Mr. Davenport's prepared statement will be made part of the record.

Mr. DAVENPORT. The first comment that I would like to make is that I only regret that this whole concept did not happen several years ago, because in my mind I feel that a medal of this type is something that you can put on your wall, something that you can

prepare yourself or the people that are following behind you, so that you can show them what the U.S. Government is doing for amateur sports.

For so long, I have struggled and national sports governing bodies have struggled, the U.S. Olympic Committee has struggled, finding funds to help amateur sports in this country. The one pleasing thing of this whole situation is that finally Congress or our Federal Government of the United States says that we want to do something for American athletes. And truly, words cannot express the feeling that I have of saying that now Congress or the Government would like to do something for 1980 summer athletes.

I have competed in the Olympic games. I have competed in the summer games and also the winter games. There is one question that is often asked me, and that is:

How does it feel to compete in the Olympic games? How does it feel to stand up on the victory stand and receive your medal, whether it is gold, bronze or silver? How does it feel to see the American flag raised?

And it is a very difficult question to answer. I have put together a few words, and I hope that you will bear with me for a moment in trying to express my answers to these questions.

And I am told that we are the Olympic games. We define ourselves in the context of the way we move and which way we go and how each movement is an element of beauty, for we are a participant in beauty, offering you a vision of our wish to design grace in a constant, flawless way.

But it is not we who move. It is beauty who has found a way of unfolding herself through us, for we are the Olympic games. We reach out for the space and the distance, where all thought is to excel and fly with the strength of the labors of Hercules, to declare infinitely across this universe that our bodies are, for we are the Olympic games.

That is my feeling of what we try to express, or what I try to express to many young people, of what it feels like to compete in the Olympic games and how it feels to me personally.

And I just would like to relate these same messages to this subcommittee and to the United States: that we the athletes appreciate that the Government is finally getting involved in helping our amateur sports.

Once again, I sincerely believe that our greatest ambassadors for peace in this country are our athletes, to spread goodwill throughout this country.

Thank you very much.

[Mr. Davenport's prepared statement follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF WILLIE DAVENPORT, FORMER OLYMPIC TRACK COMPETITOR

Mr. Chairman and other distinguished guests: I thank God for allowing me the opportunity to be present during this period of deliberation, in which consideration of awards for the 1980 Olympic Team is being discussed. After reviewing the matter, my only regret, is that this kind of situation did not occur years ago, prior to the 1964 Olympic Games. If this situation had developed, I would have been a recipient of one of those honorable medals of distinction.

My reason for being here is not selfish, but it is in the interest of this country and its future participation in and development of amateur sports. I am here to praise those young American athletes, who are determined to exhibit their greatness.—And they truly are great, in that they have weathered the storm of controversy that has brewed and subsequently altered the status of the Olympic Games. Those athletes have trudged on relentlessly, despite the hopelessness of their endeavors.

For some, the opportunity to become a member of the Olympic Team, may have marked a final attempt to show the world what America has to offer. For others, it is a chance to prove to themselves, that dedication and determination yields the satisfaction of having earned the right to participate in the Olympic Games, and the chance to receive the highest award for excelling in amateur athletics. But I am here, not to point a finger, but to extend a hand—a hand that reaches out for your assistance in the cultivation of America's most valuable resources for it is my opinion, that the choicest fruit of America's womb is its young. As I look back over my athletic career, I remember it as a hard struggle, for governing bodies and the United States Olympic Committee to support amateur sports without Government support: Therefore, the passage of this legislation will prove, that the Government is willing to support the greatest ambassadors this Country could ever dispatch to spread "goodwill" to other countries.

Many questions have been asked of me about the Olympic games. Among them were: How does it feel to make the team? How does it feel to participate in the Olympics? How does it feel to win an Olympic Gold Medal?

This is what the Olympic games mean to me:

FOR WE ARE THE OLYMPIC GAMES

We define ourself in the context of how we move, which way we go,

And how each movement is an element of beauty

For we are participants in beauty,

Offering you a vision of our reach to design grace

In an effortless and constant way

And it is not we who move, but beauty

Who has found a way of unfolding herself through us.

For we are the Olympic Games

We reach out for the space in the distances

Where all thoughts to excel

And fly with the strength

Of the labors of Hercules

To declare infinitely across the universe

That these our bodies are.

For we are the Olympic Games

Gathered from all lands

To celebrate the gifts of struggle of each man and woman

To expand the physical possibilities of ourselves

We came to excite the imagination

To make harmony of the extreme natures of man and prove

That the earth moves only according to

The quality of life at play.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Thank you, Mr. Davenport, for a beautiful and heartwarming statement. I am sure it will aid the subcommittee in further deliberations.

It is a pleasure to have before this subcommittee a young woman who has a record of unwavering dedication to the field of amateur sports. Ms. Donna de Varona, at the age of 13, was the youngest member of the U.S. Olympic team participating in the Rome games. That was 1960, and she has not stopped since.

Between 1960 and 1965, Ms. de Varona broke 18 world records and brought home gold medals in the 400-meter individual medley and the 400-meter freestyle relay in the 1964 Tokyo games. For her remarkable achievements in sports, she was named the most outstanding female athlete in the world in 1964.

Upon returning home to California after the 1964 games, Ms. de Varona successfully completed her degree in political science from UCLA. I can say that the choice of study was appropriate, for she has not been a stranger to Washington or to government. She lobbied for 6 years, served as special consultant for the U.S. Senate in the area of amateur athletics, and was one of the individuals directly responsible for the passage of the 1978 Amateur Sports Act, a law which has direct bearing on what we will do here today.

She also served on President Ford's Commission on Olympic Sports and was a force behind the successful passage of legislation providing women equal opportunity in sports. She is also current president of the Women's Sports Foundation, an organization which she helped found; and serves on the U.S. Olympic Committee.

And, as if this were not enough to keep a person occupied, Ms. de Varona was a sportscaster for ABC for 9 years and has been a commentator for NBC since 1978.

While I am sure that I have just touched upon her achievements, it is my hope that this introduction will give members of the subcommittee an appreciation of the dedication and devotion that Ms. de Varona has to amateur sports and how privileged we are to have you here today.

STATEMENT OF DONNA de VARONA, FORMER OLYMPIC SWIMMER

MS. DE VARONA. Thank you very much.

I just want to include my friends here, Willie Davenport and Joel Ferrell, who worked many years on that legislation, the Amateur Sports Act of 1978, who paid their own way to Washington. There were many credit cards in the process torn up, because we really went out to make sure that this country understands the movement of amateur sports in the world.

I think one thing that has been pointed out through this process is that amateur sports in the world is a moving, driving, powerful, important force. If you ask a person in this country what the most popular sport is in the world, they might say baseball and football. The fact is that it is soccer and that we have an Olympic movement that I think we are finally coming in tune with and we are understanding what it means.

I would like to point out just for the record that since 1776 Congress on 90 occasions has authorized the striking of congressional gold medals. That includes people in the area of the Armed Forces, arts, entertainers, science, legislators, Presidents, authors, songwriters, aviators, astronauts, medicine, clergy groups, humanitarians.

I think that athletes possess a lot of those qualities, and I am in full favor, and I am here to express the need for athletes to be listed under this very impressive group of people.

John Wayne was the last to receive an award. The first to receive the award was George Washington.

I have made an outline of the areas that I feel that I want to express to you, that I feel are important to go on the record.

I have had 20 years of experience in the Olympics. At 13 I was raised up by a basketball player because I was too short to see the torchbearer who came in the Rome Stadium to light the torch.

Since I experienced that one feeling, there has been a flame and a fire inside of me that I have not been able to drown. On occasions, I wish I could, because I am dedicated to this movement.

Congressman Evans mentioned that we have to protect and defend this country, and he mentioned the Armed Forces. Willie Davenport mentioned that athletes happen to be the ambassadors of peace. I think we are beginning to understand that. I think the socialist world understands that very well.

When we consider the Olympic movement and our dedication to the future—that is what I want to address myself to now—we must also

understand that the world looks at the Olympics as symbolic of an understanding of hope, youth, and the peace movement in the world.

The socialist countries use it to export their philosophy. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources they do to export our philosophy.

The German Democratic Republic and the socialist countries take coaches and athletes and trainers to the Third World countries every year. They have been exporting their technology in sports. That is how they reach the youth of those countries and give them hope and confidence in themselves, the same things that we want to do in this country.

But we have not used this tool. We decided to use the tool of a peacemaking option when the President and the Congress asked our athletes to not go to Moscow. Our athletes did not sacrifice necessarily a trip to Moscow. What our athletes sacrificed was their belief in something that is outside of traditional endeavors.

When an athlete trains, they look for self-fulfillment, they look for goals that are outside themselves. They dare to dream to be excellent. A lot of us are afraid to fail, we have to be excellent. Many of those athletes fail over and over again before they take the gamble to try and go to the Olympic games that may not happen or may happen.

They have been visible. They don't have any guarantees. They do not have any paycheck guarantees. They don't have any future other than what they feel at the moment. But they provided a great role for our American youth.

And it is hard to measure, what role has the Olympics played in this country. What role and impact did Olga Korbut have when she came to this country and participated in the gymnastics? If you look at the statistics, more young women and more young men participated in gymnastics, more than ever before. The growth in women's sports has boomed, necessitating title IX, which is something that a group of us had worked very hard for.

What were the byproducts of that? How do you measure an Al Oerter's determination or your determination? What kind of inspiration does he have? What kind of inspiration did Jesse Owens have, who won the Medal of Freedom?

Briefly, how can you talk about the impact that sports has played in the concepts of preventive medicine, in the concepts of school programs? All these things the Olympics have an impact on.

Why do we tune in to the Olympics every 4 years? What does it mean to us to watch our young athletes fight? Is it because once and for all we want to look back at the human struggle, that we want to somehow believe in idealism?

What role did our American hockey players play for us? I don't feel it was a role necessarily that we beat the Russians. I think at the time the hockey players did the impossible? They gave us back our feeling that Americans can dream to do the impossible, that we can make it possible; that a group of young guys from all over the country who should never dare to hope to win that gold medal, who are amateurs, can get together, work together, and produce a miracle.

I remember the ABC sportscaster that said, do you believe in miracles. And we all screamed and we all felt that. We felt that at a difficult time. We were frustrated with Iran and Afghanistan. We were frustrated with the Lake Placid Olympic Committee that really did

not do its job, that was an embarrassment. And the Lake Placid Organizing Committee gave all kinds of propaganda to the socialist world.

So I come to you now to talk about the future of our movement. Because of the boycott, individual programs, like Muriel Grossfield's program in Connecticut is having to close. Those funds have stopped because of America's belief that we should not go to Moscow.

A lot of people have stopped giving to the Olympic program because in their minds they think the Olympics happen every 4 years. They don't realize that the amateur sports system is exported throughout the world every year, every season, and that it is a continuous movement and a commitment by governments and peoples of the world.

I am interested in 1984 and the future. That is why I think it is important for this Government to play a leadership role in honoring our athletes who dare to dream to be excellent, and paying tribute to young people who want to be exemplary for Americans, who want to play an example.

I think it is important that we signal to the world that we understand that we used a tool to try to make a peaceful statement against the aggressive action in Moscow. I think it is important that we signal to the world that we understand this movement is a continuous one, because in 1984 when we host the Olympics in Los Angeles I personally feel that we have to be focused on what that means to the world.

The socialist countries—and this is my opinion—will come. They will say they do not mix politics and sports. They will train their athletes continuously, as we do our professional athletes. Their commitment is single-minded. Ours sometimes gets distracted because we tune in and tune out of the Olympics every 4 years.

And I think, if anything, all the focus on the games has made us realize the role that the Olympics play in the world. And if we are going to play the game, I would like to play it with the full support of the American people, of the Congress, and of everyone interested in believing in hope and daring to dream.

As the great Jesse Owens said before he died, in a very brave statement as a man who had lived the Olympics, who was not afraid to speak out, he said:

The Olympic games, the road does not really lead to Moscow or Los Angeles. I say it leads into the hearts and minds and hopes of all of us.

And in this country we have to look at those kinds of resources, at the hopes and the dreams that our young people dare to dream, and give them examples and role models. That is why it is important that this Congress consider their sacrifice and honor them for it. Thank you.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. I want to thank you for your statement. I have been here for 16 years and it is one of the great statements that has been made in this Congress. I know that you have a degree in political science from UCLA and I am happy that you do not live in Chicago in the 11th district. [Laughter.]

Thank you very, very much for your statement.

I have no questions, but I want to ask Mr. Evans—I would like to proceed in marking up the bill—if he has any questions of the panel?

Mr. EVANS. I have no questions, Mr. Chairman, except to thank Mr. Ferrell and add that I understand just how difficult it is to make

five holes in one. I can barely make one. I used to have a scratch handicap before I came here to Washington, D.C. It is soaring and needs to soar more.

Mr. Davenport, thank you very much for being with us. And may I say that although it is a great thrill and an honor to participate in either the summer Olympic games or the winter Olympic games, very few Americans have ever participated in the summer games as well as the winter games, and that is fantastic. Thank you also for your statement.

Ms. de Varona, thank you so much for expressing to us all the positive side of the Olympics, the positive side of life. I think we have remained away from some of that, and as a nation we are in danger of losing that spirit. I think that competition does embody so much of what is a part, or should be a part of America, and it does instill those values in our young people and all those people who watch on television, like myself.

The Olympic competition teaches us the values of pride in one's country and self-discipline and it highlights the extraordinary desire and perseverance needed to excel in the events. Unfortunately, I never got to the Olympics, but I have participated in a lot of sports. It is exciting and, it is exciting to have you all here with us today, embodying so much of what is right about America.

I agree with you that amateur athletic competition does serve as a weapon of ideas. The athletic diplomats that we can send to foreign countries can promote understanding and pierce that veil of distrust that exists among nations today; something that is so very, very important. I agree that we should remain strong as we take these diplomatic initiatives. The diplomatic initiatives that can be implemented through sporting figures like yourselves, the younger people, the actors and everyone who we can get to be ambassadors for our country, are so very important in bringing about a better understanding in this world and really reaching genuine peace.

Thank you so much.

Ms. DE VARONA. Thank you.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Thank you, Mr. Evans.

Before I dismiss the witnesses, I would like for the witnesses to meet Congressman Bruce F. Vento of Minnesota, a member of the subcommittee. As I stated in my opening statement, he was one of the first to introduce a bill to present a gold-plated medal to the athletes participating in the Olympic games.

I mentioned that, and I wanted the three of you to meet Mr. Vento, who is a tremendous Member of the Congress, very knowledgeable and cooperative, and is a Member who has contributed much to this subcommittee, not only on this legislation but all legislation that comes out of the Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Chairman, I am almost speechless, but not quite. [Laughter.]

Let me first of all extend my welcome to the distinguished witnesses that are here today to provide us with some insights into what obviously is a significant issue of the day. It is encouraging to me as an individual to recognize the voluntary restraint and the enthusiasm and sincere interest that has been demonstrated by all Americans in the problems that we face in the foreign affairs area with regard to Afghanistan and the other pressures that we have upon us.

Obviously it is a difficult time in the 1980's not just for the working men and women in my district, but all of the people in this country. It seemed appropriate to me, and I think to the other Members of Congress, that we recognize what I think is an unusual sacrifice that falls upon some people in our society. You know some of the problems with regard to the grain embargo or other types of special sacrifices that have to be made by individuals in our country.

We go forth in good faith trying to craft a policy which falls equally and asks for equal sacrifice on almost all Americans. There is no way that we can share the responsibility and sacrifice that the Olympic athletes experience in this particular instance. All we can say is that we are equally grateful for the voluntary, the intelligent response and the integrity with which almost all Olympic athletes have approached this particular problem, which is obviously of great importance as our country stands together to face up to this particular problem.

This medal and the recognition that would come through this particular legislation is only a small thank-you, in a sense, in recognition of that sacrifice that each individual that would otherwise have had the privilege to participate in the Olympics could receive.

So we appreciate your testimony. I wasn't here earlier because I had other commitments I had to keep. But I wanted to get over here to express I think what is really a general feeling in Congress as well as by the American people, at least in the district I represent.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Most of all, I needed his vote because I want to get this bill out today. I recognize Mr. Evans at this time.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Chairman, I move we report out unanimously from the subcommittee to the full committee H.R. 7482.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. You move that H.R. 7482 be reported from the subcommittee and then reported to the full committee. Are there any amendments?

[No response.]

Chairman ANNUNZIO. There being no amendments, the Chair will put the question to vote. The Chair votes aye.

Mr. EVANS. Aye.

Mr. VENTO. Aye.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. By proxy, Mr. Fauntroy votes aye, Mrs. Spellman votes aye, Mr. Ritter votes aye.

The vote is 6 to 0. H.R. 7482 is passed and will be referred to the full committee.

The meeting stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:20 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

