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**Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee and the Northern California Olympians celebrate
Olympic Day, June 23, 2017**

*Joining Olympians and Paralympians Around the World to Honor
the Ideals of the Olympic Games*

San Francisco Bay Area, CA, – The spirit of the Olympic Movement is alive and well in the San Francisco Bay Area, as the Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee (BASOC) and the Northern California Olympians and Paralympians (NCOPA) pause to reflect on the ideals of the Olympic movement.

Greg Massialas, Three Time Olympian (1980, 84, 88) and now U.S. Men’s Foil Olympic Coach explains, “It is great to have a world wide celebration of these Games which we all love – friendship, fair play, honoring your competition and peace.”

Anne Warner Cribbs, 1960 Olympian, President and CEO of the Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee, adds, “Olympians come in all shapes and all sizes – but each Olympian has a dream, creates a goal, works hard, is persistent and never gives up. On Olympic Day we are proud to stand with Olympians and Paralympians around the world, to support the Olympic Charter - educating youth thru sport to build a better and more peaceful world.”

Through the years, the San Francisco Bay Area has hosted many International Olympic and Paralympic events. The University of California at Berkeley, Stanford University, Santa Clara and San Jose State have supported numerous Olympians and Paralympians. Over 400 Olympians and Paralympians choose to live, work, and play in the San Francisco Bay Area. From Table Tennis to Swimming, Track and Field to Rugby, Ice Skating to Soccer and more - Olympic and Paralympic athletes are respected and admired.

BASOC and NCOPA have organized numerous Olympic Day events and activities, including the annual Olympic Day Fencing Showcase event held at the Massialas Foundation MTEAM Fencing in San Francisco. Currently, BASOC and NCOPA are encouraging and supporting individual Olympians and Paralympians to sponsor their own Olympic Day events.

One event organized by Northern California Olympians, Liz Miles (1984 Rowing) and Charles Altekruise (1980 & 1988 Rowing) in conjunction with B.O.R.P. - the Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program, a national leader in providing and promoting adaptive sports and accessible recreation for children and adults with physical disabilities and health conditions. The Olympic Day event (held June 16) introduced the Olympic sport of rowing to the Bay Area adaptive community and included technique clinics on rowing machines as well as in-boat outings on the water. Approximately 20 individuals with various

The San Francisco Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee (BASOC) • 2275 East Bayshore Road • Suite 115 • Palo Alto • CA • 94303 • 650.323.9400 • www.basoc.org

physical and cognitive disabilities and 15 volunteers from BORP and other local rowing organizations (Bair Island Aquatic Center, Berkeley Paddling and Rowing Club, East Bay Aquatic Center) participated in the event. Through *Freedom Rows*, a program sponsored by US Rowing, several military veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts received a rare opportunity to row with an Olympian in specially adapted rowing vessels.

The Massialas Foundation MTEAM Fencing Clinic, celebrating Olympic Day, will take place on Sunday, June 25, 2:30 – 5:00pm at Massialas Fencing Center. 2530 Taraval Street, San Francisco.

The San Francisco Bay Area, which has bid four times on the Olympic Games - 1996, 2012, 2016 and 2024 - is now supporting our colleagues in Los Angeles as they complete their campaign for the Olympic Games in 2024 or 2028 with the final decision expected to come in September.

Around the world, more than 160 countries take part in the annual celebration. Olympic Day, created in 1948 to commemorate the birth of the modern Olympic Games, focuses on the Olympic values and ideals such as fair play, perseverance, respect and sportsmanship. In the U.S., Olympic Day events range from small gatherings to large, citywide events.

<https://www.olympic.org/olympic-day>

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BASOC – the San Francisco Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee – founded in 1985 – is dedicated to advancing the goals and values of amateur sport and the Olympic Movement. BASOC does this by bidding for and helping to deliver major international and national sporting events to the San Francisco Bay Area, with the ultimate goal of bring the Olympic Games to the San Francisco Bay Area. BASOC works with the Northern California Olympians & Paralympians to promote Olympic ideals and Olympism. BASOC is proud to be a founding member of the USOC's Community Partners Program.