



## San Diego Women Making History

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHERE: ZLAC Rowing Club, 1111 Pacific Beach Drive, San Diego, CA 92109

WHEN: February 3, 2024 from 3 to 6 pm

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**ATTENTION: ROW!** Women have been making history on the water in San Diego since 1892 when four adventurous young women decided to start a rowing club, ZLAC in Pacific Beach. The club is famous for being ‘the oldest women’s rowing club in the world’.

Now, as the world prepares for the 2024 Paris Olympics, we call attention to eight remarkable women who have medaled, or taken part in the Olympics since 1976, when Women’s Rowing was first allowed at the games.

Representing three generations, the legacy continues! Six ZLAC members have competed for the US Olympic Team, including two former Olympians who are currently training every day on Mission Bay to compete for final selection and return to Olympic competition in Paris!

Four of the Olympians will be present on Feb. 3, 2024 to share their experiences and backstories.

ZLAC is proud of these San Diego women that continue to make history at the highest levels of the sport of rowing:

1. **Lynn Silliman Reed** - Won Bronze coxing the Women’s 8+ in the **1976 Montreal Olympics**. Truly historic as the FIRST time the Olympics opened rowing events to women.
2. **Patricia Stose Wyatt** - was an Olympic official at the rowing venue on Lake Casitas for the **1984 Los Angeles Olympics**. She was co-founder of the San Diego Crew Classic, which just celebrated its 50th anniversary on Mission Bay.
3. **Kelly Rickon Mitchell** - Won Silver in the Women’s Quad at the **1984 Los Angeles Olympics** as the coxswain. She was selected for the 1980 Moscow Olympics but was unable to compete because of the US boycott.
4. **Susan Francia** - Gold medaled in the Women’s 8+ at both the **2008 Beijing and 2012 London Olympics**.
5. **Kerry Simmonds** - Won Gold in the Women’s 8+ at the **2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics**.

6. **Tracy Eisser** - *Current 2024 Olympic Contender*. Placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the Women's Quad at the **2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics** and took 10<sup>th</sup> rowing in the Women's Pair in the **2021 Tokyo Olympics**. She is a 2x World Champion.
7. Megan Kalmoe - *Current 2024 Olympic Contender* and the only four-time Olympian in USRowing history. Bronze in the Women's Quad **2012 London Olympics**, 5<sup>th</sup> place in the Woman's Double **2008 Beijing Olympics**, 5<sup>th</sup> place in the Woman's Quad **2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics** and 10<sup>th</sup> in the Women's Pair at the **2021 Tokyo Olympics**.
8. **Debby De Angelis** - Olympics Assistant Women's Team Manager **1976 Montreal & 1980 Moscow Olympics**, Olympic USA Delegate **1988 Seoul Olympics**, Olympic National Official **1996 Atlanta Olympics**, Olympic International Technical Official **2000 Sydney and 2004 Athens Olympics**