

Loretta Claiborne, Chief Inspirational Officer  
Special Olympics Incorporated  
Special Olympics Athlete since 1970  
[www.lorettaclaiborne.com](http://www.lorettaclaiborne.com)

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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Chief Inspirational Officer (CIO) of [Special Olympics](#), Inc. Washington, DC (2015-Present)
  - Board of Directors Member (2007-present)
  - Executive Committee; World Games Committee
- Former Board of Directors Member for [Special Olympics Pennsylvania](#)
- Global Ambassador for Special Olympics

## ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS:

- [Special Olympics](#) participant since 1970; still participates today
- Has completed 26 marathons
  - 1988: top 25 female finisher of the Pittsburgh Marathon
  - 1982: Boston Marathon; Top 100 Women finished with a PB time 3:03
  - 1981: was the first Special Olympics athlete to run the Boston Marathon – Top 100 Women finisher 3:09
- Competed in over 100 local and state Special Olympics events in Pennsylvania
- Competed in 6 Special Olympics World Games and medaled in the following events:
  - 2005 - Nagano, Japan: SILVER - figure skating
  - 2003 - Dublin, Ireland: GOLD - 3000m run & BRONZE - 1500m run
  - 1999 - Raleigh-Durham, NC: GOLD - half-marathon & SILVER - 3000m
  - 1995 - New Haven, CT Two (2) GOLDS - bowling
  - 1991 - Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN GOLD - half-marathon; SILVER -5,000m run
  - 1983 - Baton Rouge, LA GOLD - 1-mile run
- Holds a 4th degree black belt in Karate
- Continues to train in Special Olympics York County, Pennsylvania in the following sports: alpine skiing, aquatics, athletics, basketball, bowling, figure skating, golf, soccer, softball, and tennis.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- 2018 - July: Loretta was chosen to light the Eternal Flame of Hope Torch in Hyannis, CT during the kickoff celebration for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Special Olympics using the rays of the sun; then she proceeded to light the dedicated Monument for the Eternal Flame of Hope located at Soldier's Field in Chicago, IL marking the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Special Olympics.
- 2014: Invited to the White House Dinner Celebration and recognized by President Obama
- 2012: [National Inclusion Project](#) - 2012 Champions of Change Honoree
- 2007: World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame: [Founder's Award Recipient](#); Boise, ID
- 2006 Special Lifetime Achievement Award, Institute for Community Living
- 2005: Biography [In Her Stride](#), a Worldscapes biography for Grades 3-6
- 2004 Billie Jean King Pioneer Award, New England Women's Fund

- **Recipient of two Honorary Doctorate Degrees**
  - 2003: Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Villanova University
  - 1995: Honorary Doctorate Degree from Quinnipiac University - first Special Olympics athlete to receive such an award
- **Hall of Fame Inductions:**
  - 2017: [National Black Marathoner's Association](#) (NBMA)
  - 2000: Women in Sports Hall of Fame
  - 1996: [Special Olympics Pennsylvania Hall of Fame](#)
  - 1993: National Girls and Women in Sports Hall of Fame
  - 1992: York County, PA - William Penn High School Alumni Hall of Fame
- 2001 City of York, PA dedicated [The Loretta Claiborne Building](#), a medical and educational facility named in her honor (605 South George St. York, PA)
- 2001 Addressed the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee on "Disparities in Health Care for the Mentally Disabled," Anchorage, Alaska
- Named to the Partnership Board of Special Olympics, Inc. and Sesame Street / CT Workshop
- 1999 Subject of the full-length Disney movie, "[The Loretta Claiborne Story](#)," that aired on ABC-TV in 2000. Multiple airings on Lifetime and PAX; now in DVD
- 1996 Recipient of an ESPY Award - [Arthur Ashe Award for Courage](#)
- 1996 Recipient of the [NCAS-Giant Steps Award](#); Northeastern University Center for Sports in Society
- 1995; Introduced President Bill Clinton at the 1995 Special Olympics World Games Opening Ceremonies
- 1991: Honored as the "Special Olympics Athlete of the Quarter Century" by the magazine Runner's World
- 1990: Recipient of the Special Olympics - Athlete of the Year
- 1988: Recipient of the Special Olympics Pennsylvania - Female Athlete of the Year
- 1981: Recipient of the 'Spirit of Special Olympics Award' from Vice President George HW Bush

## MEDIA & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Invited to The White House by Presidents Reagan, Bush, Clinton, Bush, and Obama.
- Appeared on the Dr. OZ show (3 times)
- Appeared on 'Oprah' (3 times)
- Wrote a letter for the One Woman's Vision - [Letters to Eunice Kennedy Shriver](#)
- Shared Keynote Address with Susan Saint James Ebersol at the 29th Annual Business Women's' Forum – Los Angeles, CA

2018

- Zurich, Switzerland – FIFA Conference for Equality and Inclusion – Invited Speaker
- Harrisburg, PA State Capital – Senator Bob Casey's Disability Employment Summit

## **MEDIA & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS Continued:**

2017

- International Conference of Sports for Women 2017; Abu Dhabi. Keynote Speaker
- 2017: [Featured in Adapted Physical Education and Sport Textbook](#); Human Kinetics Publisher
- Austria – 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games – Honored Guest who hosted the Second Lady of the United States, Karen Pence
- Abu-Dhabi – Guest of the Royal Family serving as an ambassador for the 2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games
- Los Angeles, CA – ESPY Awards – Representing Special Olympics on stage for the Arthur Ashe Award for Courage, given to Eunice Kennedy Shriver
- Quebec, Canada – McGill University – Invited Guest Speaker
- Cherokee, NC – North Carolina Chiefs of Police Conference – Law Enforcement Torch Run

2016

- United Nations – New York, NY - Spoke at the United Nations Summit in New York
- Vatican in Rome; Sport at the Service of Humanity – Keynote Speaker
- Quebec, Canada – McGill University – Invited Guest Speaker
- Phoenix, AZ – International Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference – Guest Speaker
- Winnipeg, Canada – Canadian Conference on Developmental Disabilities and Autism – Guest Speaker
- Naples, FL – Character and Thought Summit – Guest Speaker

2015

- United Nations – New York, NY - Spoke at the United Nations Summit in New York
- West Chester, PA – West Chester University of Pennsylvania Student Conference
- Johnstown, PA – Commonwealth Technical Institute – Graduation Speaker
- California, PA – California University of Pennsylvania – Diversity Conference
- Baltimore, MD – Yachad, National Jewish Council for Disabilities Leadership Mission
- Pittsburgh, PA – PA Disability Employment and Empowerment Summit
- Los Angeles, CA – 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games - Speaker
- Apple Valley, CA – Sitting Bull Academy Schoolwide Assembly
- Phoenix AZ – Special Olympics Arizona Breakfast of Champions
- Hamilton, NJ – The NJ Partnership for Workforce Development
- Naples, FL – Character and Thought Workshop
- Loysville, PA – Loysville Youth Development Center School Assembly
- Boston, MA – Ruderman Inclusion Summit – Guest Speaker
- St. Augustine, FL – “She is Fierce” – Award Winner

## **MEDIA & KEYNOTE SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS Continued:**

2014

- Rutgers University, NJ – NJ Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities
- Philadelphia, PA – Intellectual disability Services Conference
- New York, NY – Clinton Global Initiative Summit – Invited Guest
- Harrisburg, PA – PA Family Support Alliance State Conference
- Norwood, MA – Vinfen Conference
- Philadelphia, PA – The Alliance of Community Service Providers of Philly Conference
- East Brunswick, NJ – Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities
- San Antonio, TX – Nielsen Consumer 360 Event – Invited Speaker

2013

- United Nations Summit - General Assembly on disability and development – speaker
- Naples, FL – Character and Thought Symposium
- Fairfax, VA – Robinson School District Assembly
- York, PA – Country Meadows Workshop
- Milton, PA – Milton School District Assembly
- New York, NY - Clinton Global Initiative – Speaker
- Philadelphia, PA – Beyond Sport Summit – Invited Speaker
- South Korea – Pyeongchang – 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games
- Washington, DC – National Inclusion Project – Award Winner for the Champions Gala

2012

- [TEDx MidAtlantic Conference](#): Guest Speaker
- Arlington, TX – Speaker for Special Olympics Texas Opening Ceremonies
- New York, NY - Clinton Global Initiative – Speaker
- Middletown, CT – CAS Youth Leadership Summit
- Lampeter, PA – Martin Meylin Middle School Assembly
- Jackson, MS – Mississippi Dept of Education State Convention
- New Orleans, LA – Special Olympics Louisiana
- St. Louis, MO – Special Olympics Missouri
- Seattle, WA – Special Olympics Washington Breakfast of Champions
- Minneapolis, MN – Special Olympics Minnesota

2011

- Omaha, NE - Met with Mr. Warren Buffett; dialoged about the R-word- [www.r-word.org](http://www.r-word.org)
- Memphis, TN - The Arc Mid-South Empowerment Gala
- Tallahassee, FL – The Arc of Florida
- Englewood, CO – Special Olympics Colorado's Hall of Fame Breakfast

2010-2009: Incomplete Data during this timeframe

2008

- Rome, NY - YMCA Awards Banquet and Festival Honoree 2008
- Teaneck, NJ - Guest speaker - Diversity Day Activities two middle schools
- Boise, ID - Breakfast for Champions Keynote Speaker
- Chicago, IL - Keynote speaker MTM Recognition annual sales conference
- Columbus, OH - Diversify Conference attendee
- New Haven, CT - Southern Connecticut University - Graduate Student Lecture

2007

- New York City, NY - Institute for Community Living; Presentation to Mental Health clients - Black History Month
- York, PA Middle School Fair - Keynote Address
- Elmira NY - Arc Annual Dinner - Keynote Address
- Bethlehem, PA - Arc Annual Dinner - Keynote Address
- New Haven, CT - Graduate Course for Educators - Lecture
- Invited Guest as an African American Pioneer attendee to Althea Gibson Tribute US Open - New York City, NY
- Shanghai, China - Special Olympics World Games
- Long Beach, CA - California Governor's Women's Conference; Introduced Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver and her daughter, the Governor's wife, Mrs. Maria Shriver
- Fredonia, NY - SUNY Fredonia Guest Lecturer

2006

- Hot Springs, AR- Keynote Police Officer's Torch Run Conference
- Los Angeles, CA- Presentation to Univ. of Southern California student athletes
- Oxford, OH - Presentation to Miami University of Ohio student athletes
- Warwick, RI - Presentation to Rhode Island University student athletes
- Rockford, IL - United Way Keynote Speaker
- Atlanta, GA - School Book Fair with ETA/Cuisenaire
- Ames, IA - National Games Special Olympics
- Rome, NY - Cooperative initiative with YUSA, Arc & Special Olympics

2005

- Atlanta, GA - Keynote Speaker - NCAA CHAMPS/Life Skills Program
- Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, New Zealand-SONZ Events and book tour In Her Stride- April 2005, a Worldscapes Biography for Grades 3-6
- San Antonio, Texas - Presentation at International Reading Teachers Conference - with appearances on local TV: KENS-News and Bridget's Beat; Launch of US version of the biographical children's book: In Her Stride
- Panama City, Panama - Chaired SO Global Athlete Congress

- Anchorage, Alaska - Attends SOAK Summer Games/ALPS Conference
- New York, NY - Appeared on Christopher 2005 Close-up Television program
- Minneapolis, MN - Keynote Speaker - International Torch Run Conference

## 2004

- Motivated Harley-Davidson Motorcycle dealers to "Go Full Throttle!" at the annual "Harley Davidson University" Winter Conference, Kissimmee, Florida
- Prescott, Arizona Keynote Address for the State Torch Run Annual Conference
- Wells, Maine Keynote Address New England Torch Run Annual Conference; 2004
- New York City Christie's Auction House; Fund Raiser for 2005 World Winter Games
- Capitol Hill - Congressional office visits promoting awareness of 2005 World Winter Games, Nagano, Japan
- Is featured in the tribute book SuperWomen: 100 Women, 100 Sports
- New Zealand - US Embassy Wellington address and Keynote Address Special Olympics New Zealand 21st Anniversary Celebration, TV, radio and news interviews
- Manassas, VA, Prince William County Public Schools, Keynote speaker, "Multicultural Awareness" Statewide School District Conference

## 2003

- Spoke at Early Intervention Conference, Special Education Department of Texas, Lubbock, Texas. (Visited boyhood home of President George W. Bush.)
- Spoke in Richmond, Virginia, to launch Urban Athlete Programs for Special Olympics
- Rang the Opening Bell at the New York Stock Exchange to launch the "Invest in a Life" campaign for Special Olympics, NYC
- Spoke at Commencement Ceremonies, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA
- Appeared on "Visions" - a community news program; ABC affiliate, Philadelphia PA

## 2002

- Invited to World Bank Conference as speaker for the Kennedy Foundation to bring attention to the state of Health Care for the Disabled worldwide
- Guest of Surgeon-General David Satcher to present at Senate Hearing, Capitol Hill, on Health Care of Persons with Mental Disabilities, Washington DC
- Attended Global Athlete Congress planning session for World Games 2003 initiatives for Athlete Leadership Programs, Dublin, Ireland
- Returned to South Africa as guest of President Nelson Mandela and accompanied Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver while attending the Children's Sports Event, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Welcomed Lleyton Hewitt, Australian tennis professional, as a new spokesperson for Special Olympics and the importance of inclusion in Sport, at the US Open Tennis Championship Event, New York City
- Helped to launch the "Special Olympics - Get into it!" program with the Secretary of Education Rod Paige

- Attended and served as Keynote Speaker for the International Torch Run Conference; a meeting of law enforcement officers from throughout the world who are dedicated to Special Olympics Torch Run; Honolulu Hawaii

2001

- Accompanied Arnold Schwarzenegger to Light the Flame of Hope 2001 in Cape Town, South Africa. This opened a campaign to increase the number of athletes in South Africa and was co-chaired by President Nelson Mandela and Timothy Shriver
- Interviewed by Derek Watts for Carte Blanche, in South Africa and aired as a news and documentary program viewed in Europe, Asia, and Africa
- Featured in a Lifetime Television series Real Women; 2001-2002
- Filmed a special video about Special Olympics with Big Bird and Maria Shriver on Sesame Street
- Testified at the Special Senate Hearing on Health Care for the Disabled, Anchorage, Alaska
- Introduced B.B. King and spoke at The White House - "A Very Special Evening with Special Olympics" - Guest of President and Mrs. G.W. Bush, Christmas Dinner event

ALSO:

- **Presented hundreds of lectures and assemblies across the USA on topics:**
- Overcoming Obstacles
- Tolerance
- Setting and Achieving Goals
- Kids and Bullying
- Living with Challenges
- Courage
- Opportunities Gained through Sports, and many more.
- Arc and ACHIEVA Keynotes throughout the United States over the past several years

