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REACH UP LA!  
***New Hampshire Shines at 2015 Special Olympics World Games***

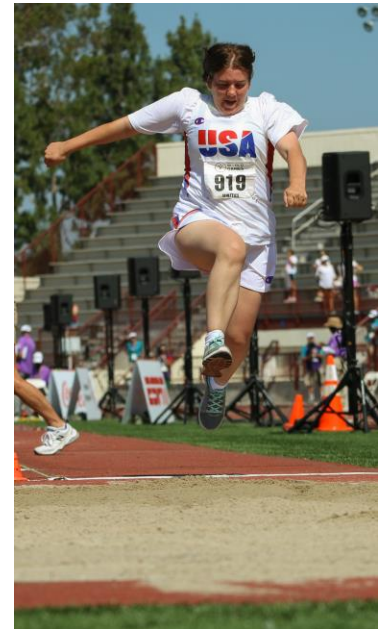
August 13, 2015 — After nine days of courage, competition and personal best moments, the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games Closing Ceremony ended at Los Angeles Coliseum with dancing, joy and bittersweet goodbyes for more than 6,500 athletes from 165 countries.

The Games featured personal stories of heroism, excellence in sports and determination including: Special Olympics Norway athlete Thea Skoglund who posted her personal best in kayaking, while her family watched her win the gold; Special Olympics Bharat athlete Ranveer Singh Saini and his unified teammate Monica Jajoo, who won their country's first gold medal for Alternate Shot Golf; Special Olympics Kenya athlete Onesmus Mutinda posted an impressive winning time in the half marathon of 1 hour and 18 minutes; Special Olympics Nigeria athlete Chidalu Onwunzi whose life was transformed when her entire team was able to hear for the first time when doctors outfitted them with hearing aids; Special Olympics USA athlete Olivia Quigley left cancer and chemotherapy on the sidelines to win the gold in the 1000 meter race; Special Olympics Costa Rica athlete Mariluz Araya won not one, but four gold medals in powerlifting while Special Olympics Korea athlete Yongjin Gwak also won a gold medal in powerlifting and Special Olympics USA athlete and Special Olympics International employee Terrel Limerick took home the bronze in sailing. The World



Games forged many friendships across borders, genders, religions and ethnicities, as evidenced by Special Olympics Israel athlete Alon Dolev and Special Olympics Iranian trainer Yaser Tahmasbi, who met on the flight to Los Angeles and are returning home as friends.

Stories from granite state athletes include Alberta Vayens, 33, from Antrim who was awarded a 4th place ribbon in the 100m run, a bronze medal in the 4x100m relay and a silver medal in the long jump. Vayens has participated in Special Olympics since she was in the 5th grade. Alberta competes year round in cross country skiing, basketball, track & field and bowling. Her favorite sport is basketball. Vayens had a great time at the Games. Her favorite part of her trip was making new friends. When not competing with Special Olympics, Alberta enjoys walking, riding her bike and listening to music.



Hayden Meattley, 20, from Dunbarton who took home a gold medal in the 800M Walk and a bronze medal in the 400M Walk. Meattley is a student at Goffstown High School and participates in track & field and bowling.

For pictures from NH at the 2015 Special Olympics World Games, visit SONH's Flickr site at <https://www.flickr.com/gp/131555244@N06/qEMFk3>.

#### ABOUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEW HAMPSHIRE

Special Olympics New Hampshire (SONH) is an accredited program of Special Olympics International (SOI) and is part of an international global movement that changes lives by encouraging and empowering people with intellectual disabilities, promoting acceptance for all, and fostering communities of understanding and respect worldwide. To learn more, visit [www.sonh.org](http://www.sonh.org).

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