



U.S. OLYMPIANS & PARALYMPIANS ASSOCIATION

Robert Zagunis, OLY - Rowing (1976) - Oregon Chapter

A 1976 Olympian in rowing, Robert also captured the 1975 Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championship and competed internationally at the World Championships and Pan American Games. His athletic journey began in wrestling at Reynolds High School and Oregon State University before transitioning to rowing, where he achieved Olympic-level success.

Following his competitive career, Robert has remained deeply committed to advancing Olympic sport and supporting future generations of athletes. He has held leadership roles with US Rowing as a director, treasurer, and executive committee member, while also contributing to wrestling and fencing initiatives. His involvement with Beaver Dam RTC has helped provide elite training opportunities for youth athletes and Olympic hopefuls, supported through his leadership, mentorship, and philanthropy.

As President of the USA Fencing Foundation for over eight years, Robert transformed the organization—strengthening its structure, launching impactful fundraising initiatives, and building a sustainable model to better support athletes. He continues to support rowing as a Trustee of the US Rowing Foundation, helping advance high-performance initiatives across the sport.

Robert's professional career in investment management and banking—including leadership roles with Jensen Investment Management and major financial institutions—has provided the expertise and resources that have amplified his impact across multiple Olympic sports. His commitment to philanthropy extends beyond sport, including leadership roles within the Japanese Garden Society of Portland.

A passionate advocate for mentorship, Robert has also supported his daughter, five-time Olympian and gold medalist Mariel Zagunis, in her leadership efforts through the Mariel Zagunis Women's Sabre Fund.

Through his dedication to sport, leadership, and community, Robert has demonstrated how athletes can continue to make a lasting impact long after competition. His commitment to excellence across multiple disciplines serves as an inspiring example for athletes of all generations.

The Oregon Chapter of the United States Olympians and Paralympians Association is proud to present the USOPA Award of Excellence to Robert Zagunis.