

# *Proclamation*

*WHEREAS*, on May 12, 1984, the greater Thurston County community successfully hosted “The Event of the Century,” the first-ever Women’s Olympic Marathon Trials, which culminated in selecting three winners to represent the United States in the historic, first-ever International Olympic Games Women’s Marathon; and

*WHEREAS*, prior to this event, for 88 years women marathoners were explicitly denied the opportunity to compete in an Olympic Games marathon event because of discriminatory views that women were unable to, or should not, compete in marathons—in spite of women frequently doing so throughout the world; and

*WHEREAS*, 238 outstanding, dedicated women marathoners from throughout the United States made history by competing in this event in the Thurston County area; and

*WHEREAS*, this event showcased community and regional pride and enthusiasm, with participation from over 4,000 volunteers, from cities of Tumwater, Lacey, Olympia, Thurston County, St. Martin’s College, Intercity Transit, state agencies, the local business community, hundred of donors, running organizations, and more; and

*WHEREAS*, Joan Benoit Samuelson placed first in the Women’s Trials on August 5, 1984, in Los Angeles at the Olympic Games, she triumphed as the first Women’s Marathon Gold Medalist in International Olympic Games history; and

*WHEREAS*, this year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of this historic event and is being celebrated with a reunion in Olympia at which Joan, fellow United States team-mate Julie Brown, and more than 60 of the original 1984 competitors will be in attendance;

*NOW THEREFORE*, I, Debbie Sullivan, Mayor of the City of Tumwater, on behalf of the Tumwater City Council do hereby proclaim

*May 12- 19, 2024*  
*Historic Women’s Olympic Marathon*  
*Trials Celebration Week*

in the City of Tumwater, and I encourage all people to participate in celebration of the history making achievements that inspired generations of women of all ages to pursue excellence in athletics.

Signed in the City of Tumwater, Washington, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year, two thousand twenty-four.



*Debbie Sullivan*

*Debbie Sullivan*  
*Mayor*