

# DETROIT NATIVE SUN

MARCH - APRIL 2026

UNITING & ENLIGHTENING THE COMMUNITY

## What's Inside...

POSITIVELY DETROIT	2
SPORTS	3
NEWS	4-5
EDUCATION	6
PATRIOT NEWS	7-14
ACCEPTED	
STUDENT NEWS	
SPORTS	
WE'RE OPINIONATED	
ENTERTAINMENT	
BUSINESS	15
LIFESTYLES	16
INSPIRATIONS	17
REAL ESTATE	18
ENTERTAINMENT	19



## CHAMPION FOR CHANGE

### MAN WHO FOUGHT FOR WOMEN'S BOXING TO BE HONORED

By Valerie D. Lockhart  
SUN EXECUTIVE EDITOR

As Dr. William Paul used boxing to help a group of women knock out unwanted pounds, a woman who wanted to compete approached and asked, "Are you a chauvinist? Why don't you have women out here?"

The question struck the former Air Force Academy boxing champion like a jab in his gut.

"Why aren't you training women in boxing," Patricia Wagner asked.

She brought seven women then 45 to get trained.

Bouts to gain approval emerged from a simple question that would lead to the lifting of a ban prohibiting women from boxing and ultimately an international victory.

"In the 1970s women weren't allowed in the ring. There were no rules, no protection, no future," Paul said.

In June 1975, the Patricia Wagner Invitational Boxing Match debuted.

Paul wasn't content with the victory and desired for women to be placed on both the amateur and professional boxing card. He continued to fight against commissions, lawmakers, and the AAU to allow women in the ring as boxers, not ring card girls.

"In December 1979, the Amateur Athletic Union National Convention adopted women's boxing at Caesar's Palace. Women could participate on the amateur scale", Paul said.

Paul gained an unexpected supporter, when he ran into Muhammad Ali at an HBO Friday night fight, who overheard his request to officials to put women on the card. Starring at sportscaster Howard Cosell and promoter Don King, Ali chanted, "Put those women on the card. Put those women on the card."

Going the distance, Paul's endurance paid off. In 1995, the Golden Gloves Association permitted women's boxing.

The 2012 Summer Olympics in London became the turning point for women's boxing in 120 countries, as it was added to the lineup. Paul wrote the rules limiting each match to 2 minutes and four rounds and requiring women to wear breast protectors, which are still used today.

"As boxing brought the jock cup, we brought the breast protector," Paul, who also worked as a research technician at the University of Minnesota School for Medicine, said. "Women were getting hit in the chest, and I was concerned about them getting

**- SEE CHAMPION FOR CHANGE PAGE 3**

SAVE THE DATE  
**CELEBRATION**  
*Gala*  
TRIBUTE  
*Dr. William Paul*  
FOUNDER  
INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S BOXING  
ASSOCIATION  
**50**  
FIFTIETH YEAR CELEBRATION  
BREAKING BARRIERS FOR  
WOMEN IN OLYMPIC BOXING  
**Black History**  
25  
APRIL  
2026 | 12 PM  
EST  
\$99  
PER PERSON  
DONATION  
EVENT SCHEDULE:  
DOCUMENTARY VIEWING  
LUNCH SERVED  
ENTERTAINMENT  
MARRIOTT ATLANTA  
GATEWAY HOTEL  
2020 CONVENTION CENTER CONCOURSE  
ATLANTA, GA 30337  
RESERVE YOUR TICKET AT: [WWW.WOMENSBOXINGASSOCIATION.COM](http://WWW.WOMENSBOXINGASSOCIATION.COM)

Spectrum Legal Services  
**Are You Looking for  
A Lawyer?**  
CIVIL RIGHTS \* EMPLOYMENT  
\* PERSONAL INJURY \* CRIMINAL  
A TRUE FIGHTER FOR JUSTICE  
ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS  
CONTACT US 248-432-7436  
24100 SOUTHFIELD ROAD SUITE 201 SOUTHFIELD, MI 48075  
MICHAEL FORTNER  
LEAD ATTORNEY