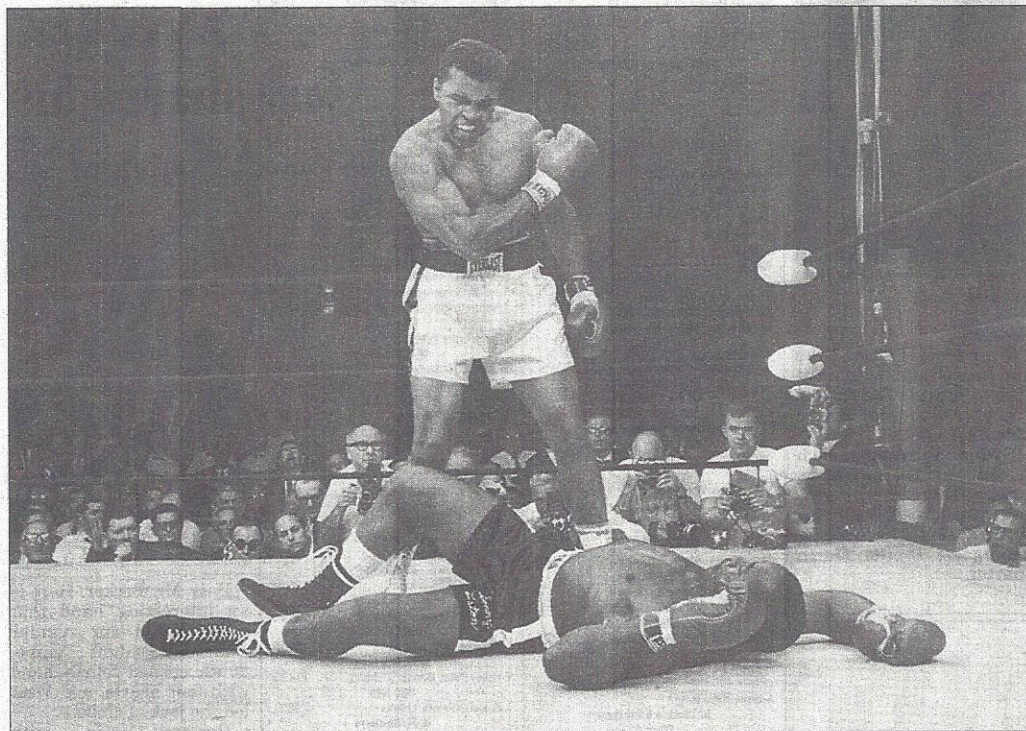


REMEMBERING "THE GREATEST"

Louisville pays tribute to Ali

Words of praise for Muhammad Ali



The Associated Press

Muhammad Ali stands over fallen challenger Sonny Liston in 1965 after dropping Liston with a short hard right to the jaw in Lewiston, Maine.

"The world is saddened by the news of Muhammad Ali's passing. Ali was truly the greatest boxing and sports figure of all time. I had tremendous respect for Ali's courage and convictions both inside and outside a boxing ring. I have never had the honor of meeting Muhammad Ali. My only connection would be that we are both suspended by the New York State boxing commission in the same era; Ali for his refusal to be inducted into the United States Arm Forces during the Vietnam War and my suspension resulting from abnormal results for a mandatory EEG Brain Wave Test. We both circumvented our suspensions by going South (1970 Ali defeated Jerry Quarry in Georgia) to states that had no boxing commission or less stringent regulations. Kurt Chaplin, formerly an ABC News sports reporter, gave me a signed autograph photo of Ali knowing that I, too, was suffering from Parkinson's Syndrome. I was very humbled by that kind gesture. His passing inspires me even more to continue with my second impact message." — Former Geneva boxer and The Second Impact founder Ray Ciancaglini, in an email sent to the *Finger Lakes Times*.

"Ali, Frazier & Foreman we were 1 guy. A part of me slipped away, "The greatest piece" — tweet by George Foreman, Ali's opponent in the "Rumble in the Jungle"

"He sacrificed the heart of his career and money and glory for his religious beliefs about a war he thought unnecessary and unjust. His memory and legacy lingers on until eternity. He scarified, the nation benefited. He was a champion in the ring, but, more than that, a hero beyond the ring. When champions win, people carry them off the field on their shoulders. When heroes win, people ride on their shoulders. We rode on Muhammad Ali's shoulders." — the Rev. Jesse Jackson, founder and president of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition,

Hometown son mourned, honored and celebrated

By **BRUCE SCHREINER**
& **CLAIRE GALOFARO**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A newborn arrived on a cold Louisville day in January 1942. His parents named him Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr.

"Imagine that day," Mayor Greg Fischer marveled on Saturday. "That little boy, eyes wide open, looking up, looking around the room at the old Louisville General Hospital, not knowing the life that awaited him, the life he would make, the world he would shake up, and the people he would inspire."

As the world mourned Muhammad Ali, his death held special meaning in his hometown, where the boxing great was the city's favorite son.

A makeshift memorial grew outside the Muhammad Ali Center, a museum built in tribute to Ali's core values: respect, confidence, conviction, dedication, charity, spirituality. A candle burned. Flowers piled up. Fans left hand-written signs: "Rest in Power, Champ," one read.

"Muhammad Ali belongs to the world," the mayor said at a memorial. "But he only has one hometown."

Ali grew up in a little house on Grand Avenue in the city's west end, Fischer recounted. He liked to eat hotdogs. When he was 12 years old, his bicycle was stolen and he told a police officer he wanted to "whoop" whoever took it. The officer told him he'd have to learn how to box first.

He grew up to be the most famous man in the world, the Louisville Lip, celebrated as much for his grace and his words as his lightning-fast feet and knockout punch. He never forgot where he came from.

Ruby Hyde arrived at the memorial service holding an old black-and-white framed photo of a young Ali. She'd been a water girl at his amateur bouts as a teenager in Louisville, and seen even then that there was something special, something cerebral, about the way he fought.

Years later, he came back to the old neighborhood as a heavyweight champion, driving a Cadillac with the top down.

"All the kids jumped in and he rode them around the block," she remembered.

Kitt Liston's voice trembled as she recounted how she grew up in

Louisville idolizing Ali. She ran into him at a baseball game a few years ago.

"I got to tell him how much I cared about him. He put that big ol' paw out and just shook my hand," she said. "He had time for everybody."

The mayor ordered the city's flags at half-staff. A line started forming outside the Ali Center before it even opened. They were young and old, black and white, rich and poor.

Outside Metro Hall, Fischer pointed west, toward Ali's childhood home, about three miles away in one of the city's poorest zip codes.

"There can only be one Muhammad Ali, but his journey from Grand Avenue to global icon serves as a reminder that there are young people with the potential for greatness in the houses and neighborhoods all over our city, our nation, our world," he said.

"There is no limit to what our kids can do if we help them realize their full human potential and there is no excuse to do anything less than our best to help them find that greatness in themselves. That's how we become champions. Muhammad Ali has shown us the way."

"He fought hard, not only in the ring, but in life for his fellow citizens and civil rights. The world has lost today a great unifying champion whose punches transcended borders and nations." — King Abdullah II of Jordan.

"Ali was not afraid of anything. He made up his own rules inside the ring and out, and he told the world that is how he acted even (if) they didn't like it. ... He was suspended for political reasons, he was arrested, he lost, he once boxed 12 rounds with a broken jaw, but he always came back. We learned from him that victory is the ability to stay on your feet after everyone else has raised their hands and given up." — Yair Lapid, head of Israel's centrist Yesh Atid party and a former amateur boxer.

"Without question his legacy is one that he defied the odds because he stood up for what he believed in and when he was put to the test he took personal harm rather than go against his beliefs and what he stood for." — Don King, promoter of "Rumble in the Jungle" and "Thrilla in Manila."

"We lost a giant today. Boxing benefited from Muhammad Ali's talents but not nearly as much as mankind benefited from his humanity. Our hearts and prayers go out to the Ali family. May God bless them." — boxer Manny Pacquiao, a champion in eight weight classes.

"Ali, the G-O-A-T. A giant, an inspiration, a man of peace, a warrior for the cure. Thank you." — tweet by actor Michael J. Fox, who has Parkinson's disease.