

## **ANDREA MEAD LAWRENCE**

**1932 – 2009**



Andrea Mead, age 15

Andrea Mead Lawrence was born to an alpine skiing family in Rutland County, Vermont, that owned and operated the Pico Peak ski area. Her father started her skiing very young and by age 10 she was ready for competition. He passed away in 1942 but the mountain continued to thrive under her mother's management.

In fact, many American servicemen remember Pico as they were all invited to ski with equipment provided at no charge.

In 1948 Mead, age 15, was the youngest member of the United States Women's Alpine Olympic Team, having secured a place by

winning the slalom tryouts at Sun Valley, Idaho the previous year. The Olympic tryouts had been her first major event. Mead competed in the 1948 Winter Olympics in St. Moritz, Switzerland, where she placed eighth in the slalom. Two years later, Mead placed sixth in the giant slalom and ninth in the downhill at the 1950 World Championships in Aspen, United States. In 1950 – 1951 Mead had a very successful ski season in Europe where she placed first in 10 races and 2nd in 4 others.

At the 1952 Winter Olympics in Oslo, Norway, Mead Lawrence (having married in 1951) was selected as captain of the U.S. women's team at age 19. This led to her being the January 21 Time Magazine cover-story, just days before the team arrived in Oslo. **At Oslo in 1952 she won both the slalom and the giant slalom events, making Andrea Mead Lawrence the first American Alpine skier to win two Olympic Gold medals.**



Between the 1952 and 1956 Winter Olympics, Mead Lawrence gave birth to three children, sitting out the 1954 World Championship season. Returning for the 1956 Winter Olympics, in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, Mead Lawrence competed in all three disciplines, placing fourth in the giant slalom.

In 1958, just two years after retiring from competition, Mead Lawrence was inducted into the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame. She was chosen as the penultimate torchbearer at the 1960 Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley, US, who then passed it to American 1952 Olympic gold medal speed skater Ken Henry, who circled the ice rink then ascended the Tribune of Honor and ignited the Olympic flame.

**Lawrence is a member of the Vermont Sports Hall of Fame, inducted in its inaugural class of 2012, in addition to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1958.**

But Wait, There's More...



## **ANDREA MEAD LAWRENCE**

### **THE REST OF THE STORY**



Andrea Mead Lawrence

In addition to her distinguished alpine career, Andrea Mead Lawrence was an environmental activist and public servant, culminating in national honors and recognition.

Mead married fellow U.S. Ski Team member David Lawrence in Switzerland in March 1951. They moved to a ranch in Parshall, Colorado in 1954 and then to Aspen in the 1960s, where she became a member of the town's planning board. The couple separated and divorced in 1967. With five young children and little money, she moved her family in 1968 to Mammoth Lakes, California, near Mammoth Mountain.

After fighting against development at Mammoth Mountain ski area, she was elected as a Mono County supervisor in 1982, where she served for 16 years. In 1980, her memoir was published as *A Practice of Mountains*, with Sara Burnaby as a co-author. In 2003, she founded the Andrea Lawrence Institute for Mountains and Rivers, a non-profit organization committed to conservation, specifically in the eastern Sierra Nevada mountains. A resident of the area for over 40 years, she was also a long-time advocate for the preservation of Mono Lake and other environmental concerns.

On April 29, 2010 U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer and U.S. Representative Howard P. "Buck" McKeon announced legislation to rename Peak 12,240 in Mono County as "Mount Andrea Lawrence," in memory of Lawrence. On January 10, 2013, President Obama signed into law the Mt. Andrea Lawrence Designation Act of 2011, officially designating Mount Andrea Lawrence.

On November 8, 2013, two Vermont non-profit organizations opened a new multi-use adaptive sports and a youth skiing center at Andrea Mead Lawrence's home mountain of Pico Peak, Vermont. The Andrea Mead Lawrence Lodge at Pico will serve as the permanent home and base camp for the non-profit missions of Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports and the Pico Ski Education Foundation.

Her nephew is Matt Mead, Governor of Wyoming from 2011 to 2019.



## DOUBLE GOLD