

Kevin Saunders –Nominated for Chairman of the President’s Council on Physical Fitness & Sports

As the federal government opens business in 2010, it is widely expected that President Obama will begin selecting his appointees to the President's Council on Physical Fitness & Sports. This Council is more important than ever at a time when so much of the country is looking for answers on health and obesity, especially for our children, and no doubt many qualified men and women will be presented. Out of the many distinguished nominees, however, one deserves your special attention.

Kevin Saunders isn't just a fitness icon; he is an example of the American spirit in action. Paralyzed from the chest down by one of the worst industrial accidents in our nation’s history – a grain elevator explosion that launched him more than 100 yards and should have left him dead – he has gone on to become a celebrated athlete, champion, and example for young people everywhere.

While a personal tragedy of that magnitude might have ended the dreams of most people, Kevin has turned his misfortune into a catalyst for self achievement, both in himself and others. Not content to simply accept a limited "life with a disability," he used physical fitness as the tool with which he could reshape his life. Beginning with small, local races, he turned from a young man cut down in his prime to an emerging athletic force, winning regional, national, and eventually international competitions.

It's possible that being a two-time Paralympian and medal winner who in 1990 was named "the world's greatest all-around wheelchair athlete" would be impressive enough. These achievements, however, only scratch the surface. **Following his performances in Korea, and Spain, Kevin was appointed to the President's Council by George H.W. Bush -- making him the first person with a disability to serve on the council, and the only member reappointed by President Bill Clinton.**

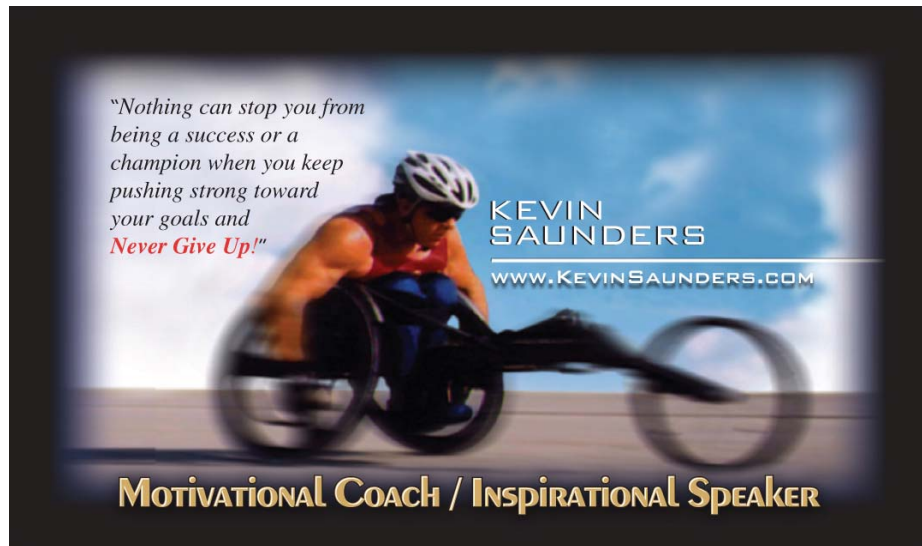
At the conclusion of that term, Kevin continued to serve the American people by pushing himself from one end of the country to the other, over 2,500 painstaking miles in all, stopping in cities and towns along the way to hold forums on fitness and nutrition. He has made it his mission, should he be selected for service on the President's Council again, to visit all 50 states personally and do whatever he can to help Americans enjoy happier, healthier lives. His plan is to spend a minimum of two weeks in each state, not only meeting with political and community leaders, but motivating children to keep daily accountably journals with their short & long term goals for fitness.

As someone with extensive experience on the President’s Council, not to mention extensive media exposure and a commitment to health and fitness throughout our nation, Kevin Saunders is the perfect choice for Chairman of President Obama's PCPFS. He understands exactly what it will take to build a healthier America, and he's committed to doing whatever it takes to create lasting change.

As you may already know, personal recommendations are an important part of this process. **We hope that you will take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to help us secure Kevin's appointment.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Who is Kevin Saunders, and why should he be the Chairman of the President's Council for Physical Fitness & Sports?



The victim of one of our nation's worst industrial accidents, Kevin is the ultimate example of what one American can do through fitness, healthy choices, and an iron will. Since being paralyzed from the chest down, with no core balance, he's gone on to:

Competed in hundreds of local, national, and international competitions

- Won medals at the Paralympics in Seoul, Korea and Barcelona, Spain, Gold medals at the Pan American Paralympic games in Venezuela, Gold medal in the World Championships in Australia, Gold medal in the World Wheelchair Games in Stoke Mandeville, England, Gold medal in World Championships in Netherlands, Gold medal at the Paralympic trials in Salt Lake City, Utah, to name a few. He also set many world records along the way, and has won over 700 medals from 1984 to present worldwide.
- Served on two previous President's Councils, under George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton – making him the first person with a disability / Paralympian to be appointed, and the only member retained under the Clinton administration.
- Pushed his wheelchair over 2,500 miles from Canada to Mexico to raise awareness and promote the importance of fitness issues to school students, political and community leaders across America.
- Served as an "Ambassador of Fitness," wheeling through several European nations to meet with leaders and concerned citizens, as well as trade ideas on improving health globally.
- Given several thousand media interviews, including The Today Show, Good Morning America, USA Today, and hundreds of local and regional television, radio, and newspaper outlets.
- Written five books, including the upcoming *Revolutions: Creating Healthy Change in America one Push at a Time*.
- Served as a coach, consultant, and motivational expert to several universities, sports teams, and American corporations, including the Kansas State University football team and Head Coach Bill Snyder, during what was referred to as "The Greatest Turnaround in College Football History."
- Coach Tom Hughes started the: **Kevin Saunders for Chairman of the President's Council on Physical Fitness / Sport**. His goal is to get over 5,000 members to join this facebook site, so please feel free to join.

Sample support letters from Olympic Champion, Bob Richards & K-State Head Coach, Bill Snyder below:

Bob Richards Enterprises

July 15, 2009

President Barak Obama
The White House

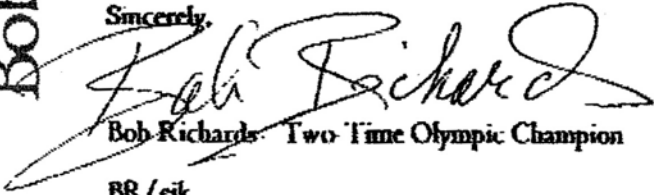
Dear Mr. President:

One of the most herioc and valiant endeavors in sport that I have ever seen is the effort and struggle of Kevin Saunders. Crippled by a blast in a grain elevator and thrown hundreds of feet into a crumpled mass he unbelievably and miraculously fought to survive. Not only living, he resolved to take his crippled body and make a great contribution to life.

He has participated in numerous Paralympics and brought home many medals and honors. Kevin Saunders has proven that shattered nerves and limbs need not stop the determined mind.

In addition to his athletic achievements he is a great motivational speaker, charismatic leader and a thrilling contributor to this world. Kevin would make an outstanding Chairman for your President's Council on Physical Fitness & Sports.

Sincerely,


Bob Richards - Two Time Olympic Champion

BR/cjk

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*"Life does not
determine a
champion....
a champion determines
life"
Bob Richards*

KANSAS STATE WILDCATS

Football Office
2201 Kimball Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502-3398



Bill Snyder, Head Coach
785-532-5876
785-532-7956 (FAX)

August 5, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20050

Dear Mr. President:

I consider it an honor and a duty to recommend to you a most deserving and capable individual to chair the President's Commission on Physical Fitness and Sports. That person is Kevin Saunders; an unbelievable talented, focused, caring and compassionate young man who truly desires to serve in this position. Kevin possesses the values that are the very foundation of our great country. Having to endure the constant agony of being paralyzed from the chest down and doing it with the fortitude, courage, inner strength, compassion for others and with an inspiring positive attitude is absolutely amazing.

Kevin is truly a special person; who, through his determination, his pride, his faith in this country, his leadership capacity, his ability to command great respect and loyalty from his peers, his honest and loyalty, and the intrinsic value system he has in place, becomes in my eyes, the perfect fit to chair this commission. This country and its youth would profit amazingly well with his selection.

If I can be of further assistance in his selection, please call.

Wishing you continued success and good fortune.

Warm regards,

Bill Snyder
Head Football Coach

BS:jf



What can you do to help Kevin be appointed Chairman of the PCPFS?

Since personal recommendations are such an important part of the nomination process, we are asking government officials, business leaders, and other prominent personalities – just like you – to take five minutes and write a letter of support for Kevin’s nomination.

Please forward your support letters for Kevin Saunders for Chairman PCPFS to:

President Obama C/O White House Personnel Appt. Chairman PCPFS
THE WHITE HOUSE
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington D.C. 20500

cc: Ms. Kathleen Sebelius Secretary
Health & Human Services
200 Independence Ave. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201