

Olympian Joetta Clark Diggs to Compete at World Masters Athletics Championships in Daegu, South Korea

Decorated Olympian and American record-holder will compete in the 100-meter and 200-meter events on the international masters stage

BETHLEHEM, PA, UNITED STATES, August 20, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Four-time U.S.

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Joetta, 4x Olympian and American Record-Holder

Olympian, 11-time USA national champion and longtime health and fitness advocate [Joetta Clark Diggs](#) will represent the United States at the [2026 World Masters Athletics Championships](#) in Daegu, South Korea.

Clark Diggs will compete in the women's 60–64 age division in the 100-meter and 200-meter events at Daegu Stadium during the global championship, which runs from August 22 through September 3, 2026. Her 100-meter competition is scheduled for August 22, with semifinal and final rounds set for August 23. The 200-meter preliminary round is scheduled for August 27, followed by semifinal and final rounds on August 28.

“I am honored to return to international competition and represent the United States in Daegu,” said Clark Diggs. “This journey is about showing people that excellence, purpose and possibility have no age limit. I hope that my experience encourages others to continue moving, dreaming and pursuing the goals that matter most to them.”

Clark Diggs, known affectionately as “[Joetta](#),” is widely recognized as one of America's most accomplished middle-distance runners. She represented the United States in four Olympic Games: Seoul in 1988, Barcelona in 1992, Atlanta in 1996 and Sydney in 2000. During her career, she won 11 USA national championships, earned 15 All-America honors at the University of Tennessee and recorded an 800-meter personal best of 1:57.84. She also won a bronze medal in the 800 meters at the 1993 World Indoor Championships.

After returning to competition last year following a 25-year hiatus, four-time Olympian “Joetta”

made an immediate impact on the masters circuit. In February 2025, she captured the women's 60-64 200-meter title at the USATF Masters Indoor Track & Field Championships in Gainesville, Florida, clocking 28.62 seconds to break the American indoor record.

She lowered that mark to 28.17 at the USATF New York Open and Masters Championships and again set a new American record of 27.66 at the 2026 USATF Masters Indoor Championships in Albuquerque. Clark Diggs also established an American record in the women's 60-64 100 meters with a 13.44 performance at the Mid-Atlantic/NJ Masters Championships in June 2025, marking a remarkable sprinting resurgence after a legendary career primarily defined by the 800 meters.



From representing Team USA on the Olympic stage to continuing to compete at the Masters level, four-time Olympian, Joetta Clark Diggs is headed to Daegu, Korea, to compete in the 100-meter and 200-meter events at the World Masters Athletics Championship

Her Olympic career is part of a historic family legacy. At the 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials, Joetta, her sister Hazel Clark and sister-in-law Jearl Miles Clark qualified for the U.S. Olympic team in the 800 meters, an unprecedented achievement for one family in the same event.

Clark Diggs is also the daughter of the late Dr. Joe Louis Clark, the nationally known Eastside High School principal whose leadership story inspired the 1989 film *Lean on Me*. Academy Award-winning actor Morgan Freeman portrayed Dr. Clark in the film. His high expectations, commitment to education and belief in the potential of young people continue to influence the Olympian's work as an athlete, speaker, health and wellness educator and community advocate.

She is also the mother of Talitha Diggs, one of America's elite 400-meter sprinters and a rising force in international track and field. A multiple-time NCAA champion, USA champion and World Championships gold medalist as a member of the U.S. 4x400-meter relay, Talitha competes professionally as an adidas athlete. Her accomplishments represent the next generation of a remarkable family legacy in track and field, one that now spans generations of athletic excellence.

As Clark Diggs transitions from the middle-distance events that defined much of her elite career to the 100-meter and 200-meter sprints, her return to the global stage highlights the power of lifelong fitness, competitive spirit and intergenerational excellence.

“Every race is an opportunity to test yourself, honor your preparation and inspire someone else,” Clark Diggs said. “I am excited to compete, connect with masters athletes from around the world and carry the support of my family, community and country with me to Korea.”

About Joetta Clark Diggs

Joetta Clark Diggs is a four-time U.S. Olympian, 11-time USA national champion, motivational speaker, author and health and fitness advocate. A University of Tennessee graduate and 15-time All-American, she competed at the Olympic Games in 1988, 1992, 1996 and 2000. Joetta has devoted her career and community leadership to encouraging people of all ages to pursue wellness, confidence, discipline and personal excellence. For more information, visit joettasportsandbeyond.com.

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