



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Statement from Rep. Brostoff on Muhammad Ali's Death**

MILWAUKEE – Rep. Jonathan Brostoff (D-Milwaukee) released the following statement regarding the death of three-time world heavyweight boxing champion, activist, and philanthropist Muhammad Ali:

“This weekend, we lost an international hero. A hero who fought for freedom, free speech, and a just society in America and worldwide. Muhammad Ali was 74 years old when he passed away following a decades-long battle with Parkinson’s disease.

Inside the ring he was one of the greatest sportsman to put on the gloves. A heavyweight like no other, before or since. He moved with amazing speed and precision, was as entertaining and funny as many of the top comedians of the time, and had an unbreakable will, confidence, and, most of all, love for his fellow person. The ‘Louisville Lip’ was known for all these things but his greatest contribution to our society was his hunger for justice, his unabashed criticism of the racist power structure he fought against, and his courage to do what was right, sacrificing everything for what he believed in.

Muhammad Ali’s influence on the Civil Rights Movement was profound and he walked the walk. After converting and adopting the non-violence values of Islam, Ali refused on three occasions to join in the war efforts in Vietnam and was arrested and denied the ability to box during his peak athletic years. He knew the risks, stood strong, and articulated his criticism against racism, violence, and unfair power structures.

Humanitarianism had no better representative than Ali, and his deep care a love for humanity was exemplified time and time again. In 1981, he learned about a stranger threatening to jump from a building. Ali saw the situation, talked him off the ledge, and brought him to a hospital for evaluation. He promised to visit the man every day while he was a patient and help him find a job when he was released. He also played a vital role in securing the freedom of 15 hostages from Iraq in 1990, earning him the title of United Nations Messenger of Peace.

More recently Ali took on the Islamophobia permeating the Republican presidential primary, spent time raising funds for the Muhammad Ali Parkinson’s center in Phoenix, Arizona, and supported the Make a Wish Foundation and the Special Olympics. He also traveled to many countries on humanitarian missions.

Muhammad Ali was, perhaps, one of the best embodiments of fierce courage and absolute love; he truly was the greatest.”