



THE SENATE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N.J.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

By Senator CODEY, Assemblyman MCKEON and Assemblywoman JASEY

WHEREAS, The Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey are pleased to salute Jordan Cohn, a highly esteemed resident of the Township of West Orange, Essex County, in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments at the 2020 Special Olympics New Jersey Winter Games at Mountain Creek; and,

WHEREAS, Demonstrating his extraordinary skills and uncommon determination, Jordan Cohn won the Gold Medal in the Intermediate Super G Alpine Race and the Silver Medal in the Giant Slalom during this prestigious competition for children and adults with unique learning abilities; and,

WHEREAS, After posting a respectable 1:03.38 in the practice round for the Super G, Jordan Cohn knew he had to improve upon that showing to earn a medal, and as he awaited his turn at the top of the mountain, he clapped his hands together, laughed, and proclaimed, *I got this!* before taking off and crossing the finish line in a remarkable time of 52.97 to capture the Gold; and,

WHEREAS, His winning performance continued a family legacy of excellence in sports, as his grandfather, Charles Mays, competed in the long jump during the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City, which made the assignment of the number sixty-eight to Jordan Cohn all the more fitting and touching; and,

WHEREAS, Classified on the autism spectrum when he was three years old, Jordan Cohn was taught to ski by his father, Richard, and he quickly took to the sport, enjoying the exhilaration of flying down a mountain, and he became inspired to participate in the Special Olympics after attending the 2019 Games; and,

WHEREAS, It is altogether proper and fitting for the New Jersey Legislature to acknowledge Jordan Cohn and to praise him as an individual of strong character and exceptional fortitude; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

That this Legislature hereby commends Jordan Cohn, pays tribute to his competitive spirit and championship display on the ski slopes, and extends sincere best wishes for continued success in all his future endeavors; and,

Be It Further Resolved, That a duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the Senate President and the Assembly Speaker and attested by the Senate Secretary and the Assembly Clerk, be transmitted to Jordan Cohn.

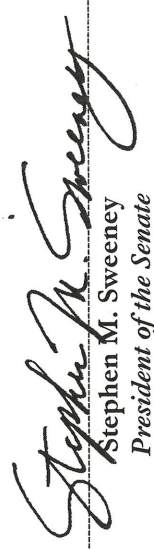
Attest:

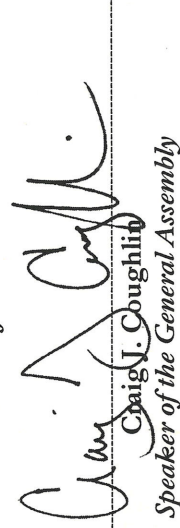


Linda Metzger
Secretary of the Senate



Dana-M. Burley
Clerk of the General Assembly


Stephen M. Sweeney
President of the Senate


Craig J. Coughlin
Speaker of the General Assembly



NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JOHN F. McKEON
ASSEMBLYMAN, 27TH DISTRICT
ESSEX & MORRIS COUNTIES

(973) 377-1606
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February 19, 2020

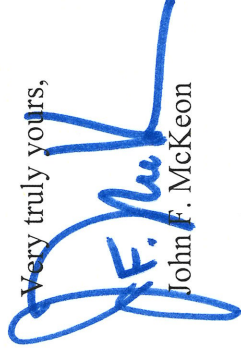
Jordan Cohn
345 Araneo Drive
West Orange, NJ 07052

Dear Jordan,

Please allow me this opportunity to congratulate you on winning a Gold Medal at the 2020 Special Olympics New Jersey Winter Games! This is a great accomplishment of which you should be extremely proud.

Once again, congratulations. Enclosed along with this note is a Ceremonial Resolution commemorating your achievement. If I can ever be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,


John F. McKeon

Keep going -
Great job -
You got this!



RICHARD J. CODEY
GOVERNOR

Dear Mr. Jorden

Congrats on winning two
medals at the speed winter
Olympics at Montan Creele
Reant.

Great job and do not
stop now!

"The Star"

west orange CHRONICLE

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WO man medals at Special Olympics

By Amanda Valentovic
Staff Writer

Eleven years after he learned how to ski, Jordan Cohn took home two medals in the sport at the Special Olympics Winter Games at Mountain Creek ski resort.

The 21-year-old West Orange native, who was classified as being on the autism spectrum when he was 3 years old, started

training for the event more than a year ago, when he and his parents were looking for career possibilities for him.

"He already had an affinity for athletics," Richard Cohn, Jordan's father, said in a phone interview with the West Orange Chronicle on Feb. 14. "He's good on roller skates, and I taught him to ski. So when we were thinking of what we would do, we

thought it should be athletics. We could see him getting satisfaction from that."

The suggestion to get involved with the Special Olympics came from former Roosevelt Middle School Principal Frank Corrado, and soon extra athletic training time was added to Jordan's school schedule.

"He gained a lot of discipline," Richard

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6 — February 20, 2020 — West Orange Chronicle

Resident finds new passion in competitive athletics

(Continued from Page 1)

Cohn said about Jordan's thrice-weekly training sessions. "You could see the satisfaction on his face."

Jordan and his family had been to the Winter Games to watch the events before, and Richard Cohn said he and Jordan's mother, Monica, wanted him to be a part of the fun.

"We saw all the different people that come together, and it was awesome," Richard Cohn said. "So we wanted to make him part of it. He knew how to ski, but he had never competed."

Richard Cohn became a certified coach for the Special Olympics because there wasn't a coach for alpine events in Essex County, and then Jordan was literally off to the races. He competed in the giant slalom race, for which skiers ski down a hill between gates, and the super-G, which is a speed event that also features gates.

"He likes to go faster, so I knew he would have fun with that," Richard Cohn said. "But the scary part is, if you miss a gate, you're disqualified."

Jordan missed a gate during his giant slalom run, but turned around and headed back up the hill to avoid disqualification. He made it through the missed gate and the rest of the gates, coming in second place. Jordan crossed the finish line with a time of 52.97 seconds in the super-G, good for a gold medal. He edged out the silver medalist by less than a second.

"The best part was after, he came over to us and put his head against my wife's head and we could really tell he was saying 'thank you,'" Richard Cohn said. "He really felt like he achieved something and he was happy. I think it's a big confidence booster for him."

Making the day even more special for Jordan and his family was a connection he already had to the Olympics. His grandfather, Charles Mays, was a member of the United States Olympic Track Team and competed in the long jump in Mexico City at the 1968 summer games. Jordan's bib number for his ski contests was 68.



Photos Courtesy of Richard Cohn

Above, Jordan Cohn gets ready to ski at the Special Olympics Winter Games, where he won two medals. Above left, Jordan Cohn, left, and Richard Cohn attend the Winter Games Opening Ceremony on Feb. 3. Below left, Richard Cohn, left, and Jordan Cohn show off Jordan's medals.

Now that the winter games are over, Jordan is getting ready for the next round of events. Each season has its own Special Olympics games, and he's training for powerlifting, swimming and equestrian competing.

"If this is what he's good at, then why shouldn't he do that?" his father said. "I'm hoping this will be inspirational to parents or young men and women with disabilities. Why can't he do what other kids can do?"

That's why he learned to swim and ski and ride a bike. They have the skills, they just take a little longer to process it. So if Jordan's story can inspire someone else, that would be great."