



# *Betty Okino*

Olympic Gymnast  
USA Junior Olympic National Team Member



# HALL OF FAME

Inducted 2022

Betty Okino started dance and gymnastics at the age of four in 1979 at Vicky's School of Dance and Tumbling then moved to Tony Causa Gymnastics in 1983 when she started competing in Region 5. She also visited Kim Bendixen's Gym to work on improving her compulsory skills. As she improved her skills she moved to Todd Gardner's IGI in May of 1986 where she made the national team and represented the United States in Australia. From there she moved to Bela Karolyi's Gymnastics in late 1989. Betty was the National Champion on Beam in 1990, won the American Cup in 1991 and was a member of the US Team for the Goodwill Games where she won a silver medal. Also in 1991 Betty won the American Cup and a Silver Medal in the team finals and a Bronze Medal on beam at the World Championships. In 1992 Betty won a silver medal on the bars at the World Championships.

Betty represented the United States in many international competitions culminating in winning a Bronze Medal at the 1992 Olympic Games helping the United States win its' first team medal in a non-boycotted games. She is also the first Black woman of any nationality to win multiple individual World Championship medals in gymnastics. Although we may not remember all the medals that Betty won she will be forever remembered for the skill named after her, a triple turn on the beam.

After competing, Betty went on to be a professional dancer and actor, appearing in several television shows, as well as touring and sharing the stage with many well-known artists and musicians. She currently coaches on the US National Staff and travels the country teaching and training in her PEAK Training Camps and Clinics as well as inspiring artistry and performance within the sport through her work as a choreographer.

