

## Day 6 – Paralympic Torch Bulletin Board

The Rio 2016 Paralympic Torch Relay arrived this Tuesday (06) morning at Rio de Janeiro. In the Museum of Tomorrow, landmark of the revitalization of the city's Historic Centre, the ceremony of union of the flames from the six cities were the relay went by took place – Brasília, Belém, Natal, São Paulo, Joinville and Rio. They form the Paralympic flame, which will light the ceremonial cauldron in Maracanã.

- The event, which started the relay in the city, had the presence of the Rio 2016 Committee president, Carlos Nuzman; of the International Paralympic Committee president, Sir Philip Craven; of the Sports minister Leonardo Picciani; and of mayor Eduardo Paes.
- In Rio, the flame symbolizes the passion for sports. The messenger of this Paralympic value was judo athlete Breno Viola. “I’m quite moved and even feel like crying”, declared Breno, moments prior to reading the message which gave start to the relay. This carioca aged 35 was the first judo athlete with Down syndrome to earn a black belt, in 2002.
- The first torchbearers were architect Gabriela Zubelli, biologist Marcelo Szpilman and general-director of the Museum of Tomorrow Ricardo Pique. After the museum, the relay proceeded through the streets of the Centre.
- Judo athlete Charles Chibana carried the flame at Rio Branco Av, at Rio’s Centre. He earned gold at the 2015 Toronto Pan-American Games. “I wish I had participated at the relay before. I’m very happy for being able to be here today”, he affirmed.
- Torchbearer Maria Lúcia Jardim is president of RioSolidario. “The love for what I do was one of the reasons that got me to work with people with disabilities”, she explained. Paralympic athlete of table tennis Lina Lei, with five medals at Paralympic Games, was one of the torchbearers at Rio’s Centre. “I’m very nervous and excited for this great moment”, she said, moments prior to carrying the Paralympic flame.

- Samba artist Noel Rosa's neighbourhood welcomed the Paralympic flame early in the afternoon. In Vila Isabel, the torch was welcomed with celebration and streets crowded by inhabitants. Ivan Moreira is a trainer of guide-dogs, and he carried the torch in this neighbourhood accompanied by Bono, his best friend, a guide-dog. "The Paralympic Games have a different energy, and for me, are of the utmost importance", he said.
- After going through the whole extension of 28 de Setembro Boulevard, the retinue headed for the neighbouring district of Grajaú, from where it proceeded for the West District. There, one of the torchbearers was Caio Leitão, social entrepreneur and creator of the samba school Embaixadores da Alegria, made for people with disabilities. "The torch came to make our work shine", he said.
- For Janice Teixeira, bronze medallist of shooting sport at the 2003 Santo Domingo Pan-American Games, carrying the Paralympic torch was an honour: "I had already carried the Olympic flame, and it was thrilling to do it again with the Paralympic one", she declared.
- Daniel Machado, Paralympic swimming athlete, was also one of the day's torchbearers. "Four years ago I participated of the ending ceremony at London. Now, I'm at the relay and will be at the opening. It's a big emotion", he said.
- Kenia Maria carried the Paralympic flame in Bangu. She is president of the Dwarfism Association of the State of Rio. "I'm 51 years old, am a grandmother and take great pride in my fight. My family is one of the few in Brazil with four generations of dwarfism", she affirmed.
- The inhabitants of Bangu went to the street to watch the passing of the Paralympic flame. The torchbearers who made the relay throughout Francisco Real Street were saluted with flags by the audience.
- Normally crowded, the streets of Madureira received the torchbearers with much excitement. More than 10 people carried the torch throughout Estrada da Portela, the region's main street.
- Young Davi Teixeira was born with amniotic band syndrome and practices adaptive surf. He is world vice-champion in his category, and two years ago, started to do skate lessons. "For me, sports are not the joy of my life; they are my life", said Davi, who carried the Paralympic torch in Bangu.

- In the late afternoon, the Paralympic Flame was carried by judo athlete Rafaela Silva, gold medallist at the Rio 2016 Games, at the Christ Redeemer.
- The Paralympic flame also visited the Benjamin Constant Institute, Ureca and Biblioteca Parque Estadual (state library), which is acknowledged for being accessible and counting with a specialized team to supply for people with disabilities (PCD), for which there is a special collection and equipment.
- This Wednesday, September 7th, the Relay will take to the city's shoreline. Starting from Pontal, in Recreio, the Paralympic flame will go through all carioca beaches. The first stretch goes until Praia do Pepê, in Barra da Tijuca. Afterwards, the Paralympic torch goes from Leblon to Copacabana, passing by Ipanema, until the height of Pincesa Isabel Av. The relay is scheduled to end at 2:30PM, when the flame will then wait for the moment of shining at the Opening Ceremony of the Paralympic Games in Maracanã.

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