

Summit Historical Minute  
The Summit YMCA Swim Team and the 1964 Tokyo Olympics  
Presented at the May 16, 2017 Summit Council Meeting  
Presented by Ben Schachter, Summit High School Senior

At the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, swimmers Susan Pitt and Ginny Duenkel swam for the US national team. Pitt, hailing from Highland Park, swam in the preliminary heats of the women's 4 by 100 medley relay, which the US women's team went on to win the gold in. Duenkel, a West Orange native, took bronze in the 100-meter backstroke and won the gold medal in the 400-meter freestyle. The common thread between these two women is that both trained at the Summit YMCA under then swimming Coach Frank Elm. In fact, during her time as a member of the Summit YMCA team, Pitt set the then world record in the 200-meter butterfly as a mere 15-year-old.

Coach Elm, beyond his long-term tenure as the head coach of the Summit YMCA swimming team, also was the head swimming coach at Rutgers University. Including Pitt and Duenkel, Coach Elm saw 7 of his swimmers reach the sports' biggest stage; the Olympics. So, interestingly enough, the Summit YMCA, just down the road from here, was once a swimming powerhouse that churned out multiple Olympic-caliber athletes. Today, Elm, Pitt, & Duenkel's success is carried on by the YMCA's Summit Seals.