# Věra Čáslavská

birth: May 3, 1942 in Prague

death: August 30, 2016 in Prague

Věra Čáslavská was a Czechoslovak gymnast. She was interested in ballet and figure skating

since childhood. At the age of 15, she started practicing gymnastics under the guidance of the Czechoslovak gymnast Eva Bosáková.

She won her first gold medal for exercises on the balance beam at the European Championships in Krakow in 1959. Her other significant success was her victory in vault at the World Championships in Prague (1962). In 1967, at the European Championships in Amsterdam, she won a gold medal in all competition disciplines.

She married the Czech national team member in the run of Josef Odložil during the Summer Olympic Games in Mexico (1968). She also ended her sports career at these Olympics.

She accepted the position of Václav Havel's advisor after the Velvet Revolution. She was a member of the International Olympic Committee in 1995-2001.

The tragedy of her life met her in August 1993, when her ex-husband Josef Odložil died after a fight with her son Martin. She ran out of life energy and retreated from the public. She began to return and started to help Czech athletes in 2007.

She suffered cancer in summer of 2015 and died a year later.

