



**For Immediate Release**

**Joel Sherman Wins War on Words, Defeats Nigel Richards to Become  
2018 North American SCRABBLE® Champion!**

*Bronx native wrests title back after 16 years, wins \$10,000*

**Buffalo, NY – August 8, 2018** – After five days and 31 games spent landing 10-point Q’s on Triple Word Scores, scoring 50-point bonuses for 7-tile “bingoes”, and trying to get that last word in edgewise, Joel “G.I. Joel” Sherman, a 56-year-old former World SCRABBLE Champion from the Bronx well-known to fans from books and film, defeated the toughest players from around the world to win the title again for the first time since 2002 at the 2018 North American SCRABBLE Championship.

Sherman defeated heavily favored 51-year-old Nigel Richards of New Zealand, a five-time champion, in three straight games on the final day—485-461, 451-422 and 439-399—playing words such as UMIAQS (open skin boats used by Inuit), THIRLED (greatly excited), and LURDANS (lazy or stupid people).

The North American SCRABBLE Championship, the 29th since it was founded in 1978 as the National SCRABBLE Championship, brought together 401 elite SCRABBLE competitors from five continents, 12 countries, and 49 Canadian provinces and American states. The event took place at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center in Buffalo, New York from Saturday, August 3rd, to Wednesday, August 8th, with extensive live online coverage including videos, photos, and statistics. Participants played in five skill-based divisions for a total of \$55,000 in prizes, of which \$10,000 went to the Champion and \$4,000 to the runner-up.

Sherman acknowledged the game’s balance between skill and luck, saying “Those three last tiles were the best ones I’ve ever drawn from the bag.”

The North American SCRABBLE Championship is organized annually by and held under the auspices of the North American SCRABBLE Players Association (NASPA).

Trademarked in 1948, SCRABBLE® is the classic crossword game loved by millions around the world. There are 40 million leisure SCRABBLE® players in Canada and the U.S. alone.

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## **About NASPA**

NASPA, the North American SCRABBLE Players Association, is a nonprofit corporation incorporated in 2009 in Texas to be the governing body for competitive SCRABBLE play in the United States and Canada, and is based in Dallas and Toronto. Its thousands of players compete at hundreds of local clubs and regional tournaments each week to earn the experience necessary to excel at a top level. NASPA is a licensed user of Hasbro's SCRABBLE trademark.

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**For coverage of the North American SCRABBLE® Championships, please visit:  
<http://bit.ly/nsc18>**

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