



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **KORPI, MCNICHOLS TO RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS 1,000-MILER AWARD AT 2021 GRANDMA'S MARATHON** *Will Receive Commemorative Belt Buckle as 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> Members of the Club*

**(DULUTH, MINN.)** --- More than four decades after they ran their very first Grandma's Marathon, Mike Korpi and Larry McNichols will become the ninth and 10<sup>th</sup> members of the event's 1000-Miler Club in 2021.

Korpi, a native of Soudan, Minn., ran his first Grandma's Marathon in 1980 in a time of 3:26:59 and has been back every year since. 2021 will mark his 42<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year at this event, meaning he will have logged more than 1,100 miles on the course from Two Harbors to Duluth.

"The recognition means the world to me," Korpi said of entering the 1,000-miler club. "I feel extremely blessed to have run every Grandma's Marathon since 1980. It's such a wonderfully organized race, and the volunteers and spectators make me want to return each and every year. I just love being part of Grandma's Marathon and its history."

McNichols, meanwhile, is a native of Morris, Minn. and will be running his 42<sup>nd</sup> Grandma's Marathon this year. He finished with a time of 3:41:37 his first race in 1979 and, except for 2011, has been back every year since including in 2017 on the same day as his 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

When he finishes the race in 2021, McNichols will have completed his 97<sup>th</sup> lifetime marathon. That means he'll have run more than 2,500 marathon miles, more than 1,100 of them at Grandma's.

"Many times, people have asked me what my favorite marathon is," McNichols said. "It's not hard to say that my answer is always Grandma's. They've always been the best at taking care of the runners, and it means so much to me to be able to return year after year."

Korpi and McNichols will be the ninth and 10<sup>th</sup> recipients of the prestigious Grandma's Marathon 1,000-Miler Award, which requires participation in a minimum of 39 lifetime events. They will each receive a distinctive belt buckle at the 2021 ASICS VIP Reception, which will be held on Saturday, June 19 at 6:00 p.m. in the Harborside Ballroom at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center (DECC).



For interview requests or more information, please contact Marketing & Public Relations Director Zach Schneider via phone at (218) 343-9874 or via email at [zach@grandmasmarathon.com](mailto:zach@grandmasmarathon.com).

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#### ABOUT GRANDMA'S MARATHON

Grandma's Marathon began in 1977 when a group of local runners planned a scenic road race from Two Harbors to Duluth, Minnesota. There were just 150 participants that year, but organizers knew they had discovered something special. Grandma's Marathon weekend draws approximately 20,000 participants for its three-race event each June.

The race got its name from the Duluth-based group of famous Grandma's Restaurants, the first major sponsor of the Marathon. Over time, the level of sponsorship with the restaurants changed, but the name stayed the same. Grandma's Marathon-Duluth, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization with a 17-member Board of Directors and a nine-person, full-time staff.



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