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LONGTIME START LINE VOLUNTEERS TO BE INDUCTED INTO GRANDMA'S MARATHON HALL OF FAME

(DULUTH, MINN.) --- A trio of longtime Grandma's Marathon start line volunteers will make up the Class of 2024 and be inducted this June into the event's Hall of Fame, it was announced today.

Greg Helgeson, Paul Iversen, and Bob Larkin are this year's inductees, having been chosen for making longstanding and meaningful contributions to the race and the community.

Iversen has been involved the longest of the three, having first volunteered in 1979 and working every race but one or two since, and he is also the only of the group to have run the marathon.

"I went to work the race in the 1980s, and I had running clothes on under those," he remembers. "It was a hot day, so that made it tough. One's enough for me, I'm happy to stay at the start line these days."

Iversen and Helgeson knew each other from the time they were kids, and they've both seen the marathon grow and grow during their time volunteering. Helgeson hasn't been there as long as Iversen, but he estimates he's been involved with 20 or more marathons over the years.

"We all have our own jobs and areas, but everybody chips in," Iversen said. "When a lot of people focus on the small things, you see the big thing start to come together."

"It's such a cast of characters," Helgeson said of Iversen and the other start line crew. "There are people I've known from before and people I've met through the marathon, but we all come back every year to be part of this thing. I tell you what, it's been very special."

Larkin, meanwhile, moved to Two Harbors in 1995 and soon after that got involved with the marathon. Both Iversen and Helgeson said he fit right in with the group, and he quickly became someone they could count on to be back year after year.



Larkin passed away in December 2023 after a battle with Parkinson's disease, and he will be missed at this year's Grandma's Marathon start line.

The trio will be officially enshrined during the Grandma's Marathon Awards Luncheon at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, June 21 at The Garden Event Center.

GRANDMA'S MARATHON HALL OF FAME

Class of 2024

Greg Helgeson
Paul Iversen
Bob Larkin

Class of 2023

Elisha Barno
Dan Dock
Barb Korte

Class of 2022

Glenn Evavold
Jim Greenfield
Monica Halligan
Deb Pawlowicz
Rick Recker
Dick Skogg

Class of 2020-21

n/a

Class of 2019

Kevin Peterson

Class of 2018

Jeff Frey
Lizette Mitchell
Deanna Nordeen

Class of 2017

Adele Hartwick
Amanda McGrory
Doug Nelson

Class of 2016

Joe Hietala
Erik Nelson
Kraig Rudstrom

Class of 2015

Tim Hollis
John Kessler

Class of 2014

Scott Keenan

Class of 2013

Carol Gallinger
Mike Krois
Rudy Lundahl
Saul Mendoza

Class of 2012

City of Duluth
City of Two Harbors

Class of 2011

Ron Francisco
Steve Harrington
Ed Hermel
GB Leighton
Chelly Townsend

Class of 2010

477th Medical Company
Chuck & Sally Hegg
John Leppi
Bill & Nancy Olsen
Kevin Pates

Class of 2009

John Docter
Steve Greenfield
Kellie Luedloff
Bill Wenmark

Class of 2008

Sharon Buchanan
Jerry Frederick
Jeno Paulucci
Mary Spiering

Class of 2007

Neil Franz
Greg Haynes
Dale Kusnierek

Class of 2006

North Shore Striders

Class of 2005

Candy Furo
Taire (Lind) Suliin

Class of 2004

Don Fennessy
Gino & Kathy Goedel
Michael Pinocci

Class of 2003

Candace Cable
Ken & Mona Rae Cich
John Kulick



Adolfson & Peterson Construction | Advantage Embroidery & Screen Printing | Anderson's Maple Syrup | Black Woods Grill & Bar | Cenovus Energy
Cirrus Aircraft | City of Duluth | Country Hearth Natural Breads | Dasani | DEDA | Duluth News Tribune | Essentia Health | Garmin
Grand Casino Hinckley/Mille Lacs | Grandma's Restaurant Co. | Great Clips | Holiday Inn & Suites | Holiday Stationstores | Jamar | maurices
Michelin's | Michelob Ultra | Minneapolis Oxygen | Minnesota Pork Board | Minnesota Power/ALLETE | Northland FAN 106.5 | Powerade ION4
Storm Creek | Super One Foods | Waste Management | WDIO/WIRT-TV

Class of 2002

Rick Jackson
 Joe Johnson
 John Naslund
 James Nowak

Class of 2000

Joan Dahlstrom
 Herb Dillon
 Cindy Nelson
 Mac Welles

Class of 1998

Dick Beardsley
 Peter Graves
 Barney & Janis Klecker
 Wen Shi Yu

Class of 2001

Brian Daugherty
 Jan Ertle
 Brian Larsen
 Paul Van Winkel

Class of 1999

David Eckstrom
 Doug Kurtis
 Lorraine Moller
 Tami Oothoudt

Class of 1997

Gerald Church

Class of 1996

Andy Borg
 Garry Bjorklund
 George Fink
 John Foschi
 Mickey Paulucci
 Alex Ratelle
 Dorothy Spencer

For any questions or interview requests, please contact Marketing & Public Relations Director Zach Schneider via phone at (218) 343-9874 or via email at zach@grandmamarathon.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. After seeing just 150 participants that year, the race weekend has now grown into one of the largest in the United States and welcomes more than 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. In addition to the 26.2-mile race, the organization has now added the Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon and William A. Irvin 5K to its weekend offerings.

As the popularity of Grandma's Marathon has grown, our mission has stayed the same – to organize, promote, and deliver annual events and programs that cultivate running, educational, social, and charitable opportunities to our communities.

Grandma's Marathon-Duluth, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization with a nine-person, full-time staff and a 17-member Board of Directors.



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 Storm Creek | Super One Foods | Waste Management | WDIO/WIRT-TV