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AMBULANCE SERVICES, DPD'S NAGORSKI TO RECEIVE PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD FROM GRANDMA'S MARATHON

(DULUTH, MINN.) --- A pair of ambulance services – Lake County and Mayo Clinic – and recently retired Duluth Police Lieutenant Chad Nagorski will receive the 2025 Rudy Perpich Public Service Award, it was announced today by Grandma's Marathon.

Nagorski, who retired in January after 26 years with the Duluth Police Department, has worked in several roles with the marathon since 1999. After starting on traffic and tent security, he was assigned in 2015 as the Incident Commander race day and held that role until 2022.

His overall charge was to keep participants and community members safe on race weekend, which required working together with several other emergency service agencies on threat assessments, incident planning, evacuation planning, and more.

"Looking at the past recipients, I see people who spent countless hours year after year to help make the event a success," Nagorski said. "Many of them were mentors to me when I started, and I'm incredibly thankful for that."

Two of the emergency service agencies Nagorski worked with over the years were Lake County and Mayo Clinic Ambulance, which will also be receiving the award in 2025. The two have been instrumental in providing medical care and transportation on the racecourse, work that involves ambulances, paramedics, bike patrol, dispatch, and more.

"This is a tremendous honor and a reflection of the hard work and dedication of our entire team," Lake County Ambulance Executive Director Randy Strohmeyer said. "It really belongs to public safety personnel, past and present, across Lake County whose commitment and collaboration make our work possible."



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“Every year, our team gets to witness one of the most treasured events in our city,” Mayo Clinic Paramedic Craig Banker said. “We take pride that we’re able to work alongside so many other agencies to help put together one of the top races in the country.”

The award, named after the late Minnesota Governor Rudy Perpich, is presented annually to elected officials or public employees who have exhibited immense dedication and service to Grandma’s Marathon.

Nagorski and staff from Lake County and Mayo Clinic Ambulance will officially be presented their awards at the Grandma’s Marathon Public Service Breakfast on Thursday, June 19 at 8:00 a.m.

RUDY PERPICH PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

2024

Fr. John Petrich, Clifton Volunteer Fire Department

2023

Pete Goman, Mike Tusken

2022

Carey Johnson, Bob Shene

2020-21

n/a

2019

Phil Olsen, Joe Tarnowski

2018

David Montgomery, William Stovern

2017

Kevin Gray, Erik Rish

2016

Don Ness, Roger Reinert

2015

Kevin Hakala, Shawn McGovern, Brad Wick

2014

Jim Benning, Bob LeDoux, Earl Stewart

2013

Tom Ehle, Brad Miller, John Schlangen

2012

Steve Anderson, Gary Doty, Paul Scanlan

2011

Scott Collver, John Foschi, George Lewis

2010

Al Goodman, Kent Lunda, Ed Moroney

2009

Jim Miles, Sharon Montgomery, Doug Nelson

2008

William Amberg, Bob Troolin, Mark Wick

2007

Helene Abbott, Roberta Dwyer, Jim Gorny

2006

Bob Brandt, Richard Hansen, Lenore Johnson

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@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. After seeing just 150 registered participants that year, the marathon has now grown into the 10th largest in the United States.

The race got its name from the Duluth-based group of famous Grandma’s Restaurants, the first major sponsor of the marathon. Having now added the Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon and William A. Irvin 5K, the race weekend now welcomes more than 20,000 participants to Duluth and the surrounding region each year.



TOYOTA



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As the popularity of Grandma's Marathon weekend 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 an nine-person, full-time staff and a 17-member Board of Directors.



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