

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL

# Boston Marathon<sup>®</sup> Wreath Ceremony

*Presented by the*



CONSULATE GENERAL OF  
GREECE IN BOSTON

APRIL 11, 2019 • 6:00 P.M.



*Massachusetts  
State House*

*Great Hall  
24 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA*



# Message from the Consul General of Greece



*Mr. Stratos Efthymiou  
Consul General of Greece in Boston*

Dear Friends,

I am honored to welcome you today to the 36th Annual Wreath Ceremony. We are very privileged by the presence of the Boston Athletic Association to accept these four gold wreaths, cut from the plains of Marathon, as a gift from the people of Greece, connecting through the tradition of these wreaths not only Boston and Greece, but also the Boston Marathon and the ideals of democracy and liberty. These ideals were preserved and protected and then flourished as a result of the Battle of Marathon, a historic event that was crucial for preserving the freedom of Ancient Athens.

Common civic events, such as the Marathon, attract people to Boston from all over the world. They remind us that we are one human race, with similar dreams and aspirations, such as dignity, freedom, and democracy.

We look forward to the 123rd running of this Boston Marathon race, a true run for humanity.

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***The Consulate General of Greece in Boston** represents Greece in New England. It is a bridge between Greece and the United States and the Greek-American community, providing consular assistance and services, and spearheading a series of initiatives for the promotion of business, cultural, scientific, sport, and cultural ties between New England and Greece.*

***Consul General Stratos Efthymiou** is a career diplomat and assumed his post in Boston in September 2017. Most recently, he was the Spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry of Greece and Director of its Information and Public Diplomacy Department. He has also served at the political sections of the Embassies of Greece in Moscow and Ankara.*

# Boston Athletic Association

United States 1896 B.A.A. Olympic Team members. Standing: T.E. Burke, T.P. Curtis, E.H. Clark. Seated: W.W. Hoyt, S. Paine, J. Graham, J.B. Paine, C.A. Blake



The Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.) is one of the nation's oldest athletic clubs, established on March 15, 1887.

The mission of the B.A.A. is to promote a healthy lifestyle through sports, especially running. "There is no more important part of our mission than that. It's to help people be as fit and as healthy as they want to be."

– Thomas S. Grilk, B.A.A. Chief Executive Officer

At the first modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1896, Greece conceived of a 26-mile race following the route of the ancient Athenians in order to remember the Battle of Marathon. There was no official U.S. Olympic team in 1896. But there was a B.A.A. team that would make up the majority of the American delegation.

The B.A.A. athletes dominated the first Olympic Games, winning 6 of the 11 U.S. team's first-place track-and-field medals. In fact, the first gold medal at the Games was won by B.A.A. athlete James Connolly in the hop, step and jump.

The entire B.A.A. squad was in the Olympic Stadium to watch the dramatic finish of this new "Marathon Race," which was the final event of the Games. Representatives of the B.A.A. came home inspired to create a similar long-distance running race in Boston. The B.A.A. established the first "Boston Marathon" the next year in 1897 and held it on Massachusetts' Patriots Day, thus connecting this new race with the Battle of Marathon, the Modern Olympic Games, and the day we celebrate the courage of our own American citizen soldiers, the Minutemen, who stood up in 1775 to an enormous military power to win our American liberty.

In 2019, the B.A.A. campaigns to celebrate the altruism that bonds our sport, our city, and our country - through service to our city and country - by commemorating the "Giving Back" of so many within our community, including the volunteers that are the backbone and soul of the Boston Marathon. The Greek Consulate of Boston and the Alpha Omega Council join this campaign today by honoring WBZ-TV CBS Boston for its 35 years of exceptional broadcast journalism in support of the Boston Marathon and its role in our community.



*Portions of the above text adapted from "The B.A.A. at 125: The Official History of the Boston Athletic Association, 1887-2012" by John Hanc, and from the B.A.A. website: [www.baa.org](http://www.baa.org).*

# *This Evening's Program*



*2018 female winner Desiree Linden of U.S.A. being interviewed by WBZ-TV 4 reporter David Wade, left, Josh Cox, center, and BAA Chief Operating Officer Jack Fleming on right*

## *A gift from Greece and its people to the Boston Marathon®*

Since 1984, the Consulate General of Greece in Boston has presented the Boston Athletic Association with olive branch wreaths to crown the four first place winners of the Boston Marathon. Each year these wreaths are grown, cut, and hand-crafted in Greece, transmitting Classical Greece's tradition of crowning its victors with olive wreaths to Boston, the "Athens of America."

This tradition reaches back to the dawn of civilization, introduced by Herakles as the prize for the running race winner, to honor his father Zeus at the First Ancient Olympic Games. As in ancient times, the wreaths you see today will crown the winners of the 123rd running of the Boston Marathon.

The Marathon Wreath Ceremony was established in 1984 by Greek Consul General Christos Panagopoulos, the Boston Athletic Association, Boston Marathon Race Director Timothy Kilduff, Governor Michael S. Dukakis, Lt. Governor John Kerry, Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn, and Peter Agris of the Alpha Omega Council in recognition of the historical ties between the world's first democracy in Ancient Athens and Boston and the events of 1775.



*Consul General Efthymiou presenting the 2018 Wreaths to B.A.A. President Michael O'Leary, MD*

# Order of Events

*At 2018 Ceremony: B.A.A. President Michael O'Leary, MD, Consul General Efthymiou, Event Emcee Paula Ebben (WBZ-TV), B.A.A. Chief Executive Officer Thomas Grilk, Honoree Boston Police Commissioner William B. Evans*

- ✓ Welcome, John Kopellas, Event Chair, Alpha Omega Council
- ✓ Introduction, Paula Ebben, WBZ-TV Anchor, Master of Ceremonies
- ✓ Invocation, Rev. Dr. Demetrios Tonias, Dean, Greek Orthodox Annunciation Cathedral of Boston
- ✓ U.S. and Greek National Anthems sung by Hopkinton Middle School Chorus
- ✓ Remarks, Alpha Omega Council President Nick Ypsilantis
- ✓ Remarks and Presentation of the Marathon Wreaths, Consul General Stratos Efthymiou
- ✓ Remarks, Boston Athletic Association President Michael P. O'Leary, MD
- ✓ Sisi Ni Moya (We are One), by Jacob Navarud, by Hopkinton MS Chorus
- ✓ Special recognition of WBZ-TV CBS Boston, Mr. Mark Lund, President & General Manager
- ✓ Recognition of Essay Contest Winners, Consul General Stratos Efthymiou & Nicholas Kourtis, Education Chair
- ✓ I Believe (arr. by Mark Miller), by Hopkinton MS Chorus
- ✓ Reception in the Great Hall



*2018 male winner  
Yuki Kawauchi  
of Japan*



# Annual Marathon Education Initiative



*Proud 2018 essay contest winner receiving award from Consul General Efthymiou and Nicholas Kourtis, Education Committee Chair*

In 2013, in recognition of the core values the Marathon represents, the Consulate General of Greece in Boston and the Alpha Omega Council launched the Marathon Education Committee to encourage an appreciation of the civic responsibility and bravery that the Ancient Greeks demonstrated at Marathon.

This Committee develops and shares educational enrichment opportunities with various middle schools to support a curriculum that reflects the spirit of the Boston Marathon and promotes civic participation. This effort centers on the annual Marathon Essay Competition, in which middle school students write an essay on the historical significance of the Battle of Marathon. Other activities include on-site school visits by the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, special school lectures, and State House tours.

This year nearly 1,000 students from Ashland Middle School, Hopkinton Middle School, Boston Latin Academy, and John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science in Boston are participating in this unique educational initiative.

## ***This initiative would not be possible without these Committee members:***

- ✓ The 26.2 Foundation: Timothy Kilduff, Founder and Executive Director
- ✓ Rachael Cobb, Ph.D, Suffolk University, Assoc. Prof. & Chair, Government
- ✓ Dr. Evangeline Harris Stefanakis, Co-chair, Boston University, Assoc. Professor
- ✓ The Examined Life: Greek Studies in the Schools, Mary Kemper, Director, Diana P. Paolitto, Ed. D., Program Associate
- ✓ Dr. Nicolas Prevelakis, Harvard Univ., Lecturer on Social Studies, Center for Hellenic Studies
- ✓ Loren J. Samons II, Boston University Prof. of Classics, Co-Director BU Philhellenes
- ✓ Nora Tsoutsis, NBCT ELA Program Director B.P.S., John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science
- ✓ Petros Vamvakas, Ph.D., Emmanuel College, Assoc. Professor of Political Science and International Studies, Director of Institute of Eastern Mediterranean Studies



# Message From The 26.2 Foundation

*The statue of Boston Marathon starter George V. Brown in Hopkinton was commissioned by the 26.2 Foundation*



At the 26.2 Foundation, we like to say that there is much more to a marathon than running 26.2 miles. To do so requires inspiration and courage, as well as passion, preparation, commitment, health and sportsmanship.

Those are qualities we celebrate and seek to reflect in our programs, which are developed to promote the sport of marathoning, as well as health, wellness and economic development.

Since our inception in 1996 as a registered 501(c)(3) charity, the Foundation's work has focused on fitness, education and support for the arts, along with community and international relations.

Each year at the Boston Marathon we field "Team Inspire", making available highly sought-after invitational entries to a small group of runners. These bibs are graciously provided to us by the Boston Athletic Association. Team Inspire's fundraising, in turn, helps support such diverse initiatives as the 'Desire to Inspire' speakers' program for local students; Hopkinton's sculpture series, which recognizes Boston Marathon 'greats' such as Stylianos Kyriakides, Team Hoyt and starter George V. Brown; and various other educational programs.

Our sister-city initiative, linking Hopkinton, MA and Marathon, Greece, celebrates and leverages the bonds born of history, shared purpose and the democratic process, while our signature project, developing an International Marathon Center along the Boston Marathon route, will formally and permanently recognize the spirit and successes of marathoners around the world.

Achieving our goals would be impossible without the strong partnerships we have forged over the years – particularly those with the Alpha Omega Council; with Stratos Efthymiou, the Consul General of Greece in Boston; and with the Boston Athletic Association. Their generous support allows us to help showcase the power of the human spirit, inspiring, celebrating and honoring those who run.



*Teacher and marathoner John Young motivates and educates students through the 26.2 Foundation's 'Desire to Inspire' program*

# *The Other Marathon* By HERBERT GOLDR

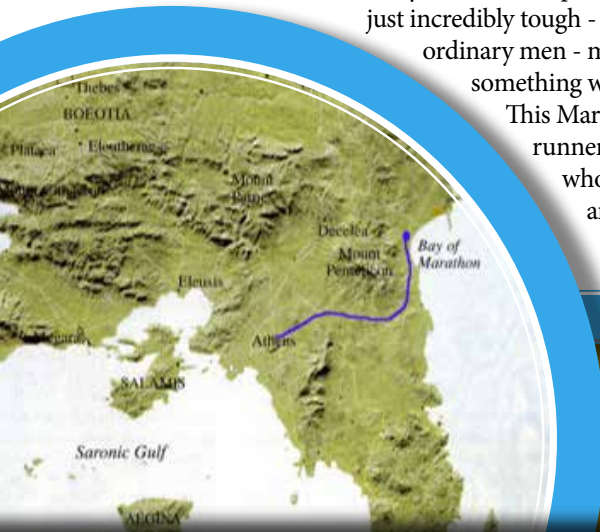
*Herbert Golder is Professor of Classical Studies and Editor in Chief of "Arion: A Journal of Humanities and the Classics" at Boston University*

This year, we commemorate the 2,509th anniversary of the Athenian victory at the Battle of Marathon. In both substance and in symbol, this victory is one of freedom over tyranny. Had the Persians, who ruled the greatest empire ever known, won the day, the world we now inhabit might never have come to be. Athens would have been but another subject territory of Persia, rather than the birthplace of the liberal habits of mind from which Western Civilization arose. Without pausing to think about that celebrated victory, people the world over know Marathon by the twenty-six mile race named after it, the reenactment by amateur and world-class runners of Pheidippides' famous breathless run from the battlefield to Athens to announce the Greek victory, after which he instantly dropped dead. But only Plutarch tells this story.

Herodotus has Pheidippides running all the way to Sparta (a good deal further away than Athens) for the purpose of summoning its help - which help was not to be forthcoming. But the real "marathon" was surely those twenty-six miles that the Athenian soldiers ran, after inflicting heavy losses on the Persians by fighting an exhausting and ferocious battle, still fully loaded with armor and carrying all their heavy gear, some of them badly wounded, back to Athens to protect it. There was no time for celebrating or resting. One setback wasn't likely to deter the King of Persia.

With the Athenian troops at Marathon, and Persia in control of the seas, Athens was an easy target. And so, weary from battle, they ran all the way back. These men weren't professional athletes. They weren't even professionally-trained soldiers. They were just incredibly tough - and tough-minded - extraordinary ordinary men - men who believed in something - something worth living for and worth dying for.

This Marathon Day, let us think not of the great runner Pheidippides, but of the ordinary men who performed a miracle at Marathon and then brought home and saved a dream called Athens.



*26 mile route of the Athenians  
from Marathon back home*



# Stylianos Kyriakides



*The Story of A Greek Hero,  
on the 72nd Anniversary of  
His Boston Marathon® Victory*

*Boston 1946*



## *In the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin...*

Stylianos Kyriakides competed in the Olympic Marathon for Greece, placing 11th. There he met and became friends with fellow Berlin marathoner, Johnny Kelley from Boston. Just a few years later, Kyriakides was back in Greece, where he narrowly survived the Nazi occupation of Greece. With the Greek Civil War following on the heels of World War II, and with thousands of his war-torn countrymen dying from starvation, Kyriakides felt compelled to run the Boston Marathon in 1946, not for his own personal success, but to draw America's attention to Greece's condition after its heroic resistance to Nazism. In 1946 Kyriakides travelled to Boston, but he was so emaciated from lack of food in Greece that Boston doctors advised him that he should not run because he could die. Nevertheless, Kyriakides chose to run. According to a newspaper report, he was running neck and neck with Kelley nearing the finish line, when an old man shouted from the crowd, "For Greece, for your children!," motivating Kyriakides to pull away and win the race in 2:29:27, a new record time. According to Life magazine, he shouted "For Greece!" as he crossed the finish line.

Nearly a million people greeted Kyriakides on his return to Athens in May 1946, when he arrived with boatloads of food, medicine, clothing, and other essentials donated by generous Americans who read of his cause and victory.

His story has inspired generations of runners, and he is remembered as one of the greatest figures in the history of the Boston Marathon and American sports. He is considered the very first in a long line of charitable runners - those who run for the good and for virtue.

*Timothy W. Kilduff, 26.2 Foundation  
President, presenting Commr. Evans  
with replica of Stylianos Kyriakides'  
winning 1948 Boston Marathon  
jersey, with Pres. Peter J. Lemonias.*



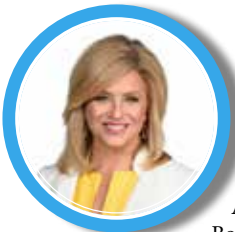
# Alpha Omega Council Recognizes...



*for 35 Years of Marathon Coverage*



**Mark Lund is President and General Manager of CBS Boston's WBZ-TV and myTV38 (WSBK-TV).** A veteran of 35 years in the local television industry, Lund joined WBZ-TV and myTV38 (WSBK-TV) from NBC, where he served as Executive Vice President of Sales for the NBC Owned Television Stations from 2008-2012. Lund is actively involved in the broadcast industry as well as many local community organizations. He is a board chair of the Massachusetts Broadcasters Association and Massachusetts Broadcaster Association Hall of Fame. He is also a board member of Ron Burton Training Village, Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA), and the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce. Lund graduated from St. Michael's College in Winooski, Vermont. He and his wife Amy are the parents of six children.



## ***Our Emcee***

**Award-winning journalist Paula Ebben co-anchors WBZ-TV News at 5:30PM and WBZ-TV 8PM News on myTV38.** Ebben also reports across WBZ-TV's newscasts including WBZ-TV News' "Eye on Education" reports. A native of Shrewsbury, Ebben previously worked as an anchor and reporter at New England Cable News. Ebben received a 2014 Columbia DuPont Award and a 2013 Peabody Award as part of WBZ-TV's team coverage of the Boston Marathon Bombings. She has been nominated for multiple New England Emmy Awards for Anchor, Consumer Reporter, Education Series and for Writing. Ebben graduated from Boston College. She volunteers for Bridge Over Troubled Waters, the Boston College Alumni Board of Directors, the Women's Alumni Mentoring Program at Boston College, Newton Country Day School of the Sacred Heart and The Roxbury Latin School. Ebben and her husband reside in the Greater Boston area with their four children.

## ***Our Supporters in the Massachusetts Legislature***



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*Massachusetts Senate President*



**Robert A. DeLeo**  
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*Senate Minority Leader*



**Carolyn C. Dykema**  
*State Representative*

# Boston Marathon® Wreath Ceremony

*Hosted by the Consulate General of Greece in Boston  
& Alpha Omega Council with the support of:*

## **2019 Boston Marathon® Wreath Ceremony Committee:**

Hon. Stratos Efthymiou, John Kopellas Chair, Nicholas Kourtis Co-Chair, Nicholas Anastasopoulos, George Antonopoulos, Stamatis Astra, Makis Emmanouilidis, Spiros Jamas, Timothy Kilduff, Charles Lavrentios, Peter Lemonias, Peter Panagopoulos, John Pappas, Costas Sideridis, Costas Speliakos, Archie Typadis, Nicholas Ypsilantis

**Ashland Public Schools:** Kelly A. Raymond, Superintendent  
Ashland Middle School: Principal David DiGirolamo,  
Alexandra Rowland, Teacher and Program Lead

**Boston Public Schools:** Laura Perille, Acting Superintendent  
Boston Latin Academy:

Cathy O'Flaherty, Donna Markis, Teachers and Program Leads

John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science:

Nora Tsoutsis, NBCT ELA Program Director, Program Lead  
James Jones, ELA Teacher and Bridget Ryan, Social Studies Teacher

**Hopkinton Public Schools:** Dr. Carol A. Cavanaugh, Superintendent  
Hopkinton Middle School: Principal, Alan Keller  
Debra A. Pinto, Teacher, "26.2-Desire To Inspire" Program Coordinator  
Charles Rockwood, Michael Siedlecki, Teachers  
Middle School Chorus, led by Lisa Nielsen

## **Alpha Omega Council 2019 Marathon Runners:**

Claire Blake, Australia and Jyothi Reddy Gandra, India

*Thank you to Susan Hurley of Charity Teams for her support over the years*

## **Ancient Priestesses:**



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Irene Savas, President • [www.bostonlykeion.org](http://www.bostonlykeion.org)

**Videography:** Prof. Maria Koundoura, Emerson College Graduate Studies;  
Jamil Abdullah, Hocus Focus Films

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# The Boston Marathon® Wreath Ceremony

*The Boston Marathon  
Wreath Ceremony is proudly  
supported by the Alpha Omega Council*



## “Spirit of the Marathon”

This work at the 1-mile mark of the Marathon in Hopkinton was commissioned by New Balance Athletic Shoe Company in 2006 to mark the 60th anniversary of Kyriakides’ victory. It depicts the first Marathon winner in 1896 Spyridon Louis urging Kyriakides on to victory. The statue was sculpted by Mico Kaufman of Tewksbury, MA, and is hosted at Weston Nurseries. An identical work was also commissioned for Marathon, Greece, sister city of Hopkinton, near the ancient battle site, to mark the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

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*The Alpha Omega Council is a non-profit philanthropic and service organization based in Boston. Its mission is to promote loyalty and patriotism to the United States and to cultivate the ideals of Hellenism by supporting various religious, charitable, scientific, literary, and educational activities throughout the nation. Each year the Council recognizes the achievements of those who have excelled in their professions through its annual Lifetime Achievement Award and Philhellene Award, and also presents the Agris Memorial Scholarships to Greek-American students studying journalism - one of the cornerstones of democracy.*

*Since its founding in 1976, the Council has donated more than \$2.5M to charitable causes.*



[www.alphaomegacouncil.org](http://www.alphaomegacouncil.org)

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