

A run for his life To help impoverished Greece, Stylianos Kyriakides vowed to win the 1946 Boston Marathon -- or die trying

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As he sat in his room at the Hotel Minerva a few hours before the 1946 Boston Marathon, a race he said he had to win to bring the world's attention to the plight of starving Greeks in his homeland, Stylianos Kyriakides took a last look at a letter from his wife, who was in Athens with their two children.

"My Dear Love," she wrote, "I wake up every day and I see you in front of me. I pray to God He will help you win and see your dream fulfilled for Hellas. The day you will run, I will go to church and light a candle and pray to God that you come back with a victory for our Greece. You have the love from within my heart . . . Your wife, Iphigenia."

Kyriakides, born in Cyprus ...