



36th Marine Corps Marathon
“The People’s Marathon”
October 30, 2011



INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

The relationship with the Marine Corps Marathon grew out of the Sister-City relationship between Marathon, Greece and Hopkinton Massachusetts. However, that relationship has its roots in the 1946 Boston Marathon victory of Stylianos Kyriakides and the unveiling of sculpture honoring the win and featuring the figures of Kyriakides and Spiridon Louis, the gold medal winner of the Marathon in the first Olympics in the modern era in 1896. The Mico Kaufman's sculpture, unveiled in 2006, was placed at the 1 Mile marker of the Boston Marathon course in Hopkinton, Massachusetts.





In 2010, in conjunction with the 2,500th anniversary of the Battle of Marathon, representatives of the Marine Corps Marathon traveled to Hopkinton and were recognized at a dinner hosted by Hopkinton community leaders. They returned with gold, silver, and bronze wreaths, which were presented to the winners of the 35th Marine Corps Marathon. The wreaths were placed on the heads of the winners by United States Marine Corps Commandant James F. Amos.



In addition, the Marathon Flame, originally transferred from Marathon, Greece to Hopkinton, Massachusetts was presented to Rick Nealis, Director of the Marine Corps Marathon and was present at the start of the 35th Marine Corps Marathon.

The wreaths were donated by Dimitri Kyriakides, in honor of his father's memorable 1946 Boston Marathon victory and in recognition of the historic significance of the Municipality of Marathon, Greece.



Dimitri Kyriakides, MCM women's champion, Janet Cherodon, and race and TV announcer Larry Rawson at the finish line.

It was the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC,) General James Amos, after learning of the connection to Marathon, Greece and the Battle of Marathon, who requested the wreaths for the 36th MCM, which was run on Sunday, October 30, 2011.



Dimitris Kyriakides, General Amos, and Mrs. Jill Biden at the start line of the 2010 Marine Corps Marathon. Mrs. Biden fired the starters pistol.

THE SYMBOL THAT CONNECTS US

The wreaths pictured below are made of branches from olive trees in Greece. They are plated in gold, silver, and bronze.



The wreaths are unique and memorable gifts for the first, second, and third place men's and women's finishers.

FULL PARTICIPATION

Thanks to Marine Corps Marathon Race Director Rick Nealis invitations were extended to attend all the events surrounding the Marine Corps Marathon including an induction ceremony for the Marine Corps Marathon Hall of Fame.



Deb and Col. Dan Choike, USMC (Ret.) at the Hall of Fame ceremony with Lt. Col. Richard Carey, USMC (Ret.), and 28th CMC, General Paul Kelley (Ret.).



Tasos Kasiolas, SEGAS Marketing Manager, Aggeliki, SEGAS Marathon Office Manager, and Lt. General Carey, USMC (Ret.), 2011 Marine Corps Marathon Hall of Fame inductee at Runners Expo.



TV personality and Marine Drew Carey (Ret.)
fired the starters pistol in 2011.



L to R, Col. Dan Choike, 35th CMC, General Amos, Commandant and
Assistant Commandant, General Joseph Dunford, Assistant
Commandant admire the wreaths.



The men's winners with their gold, silver and bronze wreaths respectively.



General Amos places the gold wreath on the head of the winner of the 2011 women's race.

GENERAL AMOS, COMMANDANT, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

When General Amos understood the connection between the Battle of Marathon and the marathon run as well as the significance of Stylianos Kyriakides 1946 Boston marathon win he asked that the wreaths be presented in the future.



General Amos and the 26.2 Foundation's Tim Kilduff



United States Marine Corps Memorial marks one of the world's most dramatic marathon finish lines.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Stylianos Kyriakides

Running with Pheidippides: Stylianos Kyriakides, the Miracle Marathoner
Andy Dabilis and Nick Tsiotos

Dimitri Kyriakides

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Battle of Marathon

Marathon: The Battle That Changed Western Civilization

Richard A. Billows

Publisher: Overlook Press

www.overlookpress.com

Marine Corps Marathon

www.marinemarathon.com

Marathon, Greece

Mayor, Jordon Louizos

www.marathon.gr

Hopkinton, Massachusetts

www.Hopkintongma.gov

United States Marine Corps

www.marines.mil

26.2 Foundation

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37th Marine Corps Marathon
October 28, 2012