

The “SPIRIT OF THE MARATHON”



The Mico Kaufman, sculpture entitled, “ Spirit of the Marathon”, honors Greek marathoner, Stylianos Kyriakides, winner of the 1946 BAA Boston Marathon. The sculpture was commissioned by New Balance Athletic Shoe. Inc. unveiled in April of 2006. The sculpture may be found at the 1 mile mark on the Boston Marathon course and is under the care of the 26.2 Foundation.

Hopkinton, Massachusetts has a long, warm, and respectful relationship with the BAA Boston Marathon. Its residents have watched the event grow from 200 or so runners to the 36,000 who will come to the starting line in 2014. Others tell of people met in distant places who recognize Hopkinton because it hosts the start of the oldest continuous marathon in the world. Many believe that if you want to find the real spirit of this international event it can be found in Hopkinton.

In 2006 that spirit was deepened and enriched with the unveiling of a monumental bronze statue celebrating one of the race’s most memorable achievements - the 1946 win against all odds by Greek marathoner Stylianos Kyriakides. The “Spirit of the Marathon” statue is identical to the one commissioned by New Balance Athletic Shoe Inc. for the City of Marathon, Greece, which was the marathon starting point at the 2004 Olympic games as well as the start of the inaugural marathon run during the first modern Olympic games held in 1896.



As the winner of the 50th Boston Marathon, Kyriakides used his triumph to draw attention to the plight of his war and famine ravaged homeland. Emaciated and having narrowly escaped execution during world War II while Nazis occupied Greece, Kyriakides hadn't raced in six years when he came to Boston in 1946. Despite being told by doctors that he shouldn't run, Kyriakides ended up winning, ultimately defeating defending champion Johnny Kelley. With victory as a public platform, Kyriakides then went on to serve as an unofficial ambassador for his country, raising money for reconstruction and strengthening international ties between the United States and Greece. He was and is a symbol of the inspirational nature of the marathon run and its international and local history.



When Kyriakides returned home he was greeted, in Athens, by a million of his countrymen.



Photo: Tim Kilduff

THE BASE OF THE SCULPTURE

On one side of the base of the sculpture Kaufman paid tribute to the God Pan and the Battle of Marathon. On the other he placed the face of Stylianos Kyriakides.



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For more information about Mico Kaufman go to: www.micokaufman.com

Kyriakides' inspirational story is told in a book by Nick Tsiotos and Andy Dabilis entitled Running With Pheidippides: Stylianos Kyriakides, The Mirical Marathoner

