

Stylianos Kyriakides born in 1910 in the mountain village of Statos in Paphos, Cyprus.

He was the youngest child from the five children of a poor farmer family. At the age of 14, after he finished Primary School, he was sent away from the village and to his uncle's bakery in Limassol in order to earn a living and help his family.

After he changed many different jobs, he ended up working as a house boy at the house of the British high Judge in Limassol of Cyprus, that belonged to British Common wealth, and there he learned to speak English.

At the age of 21 years old, in 1931, he started training after the encouragement of the British Chief Medical Officer of Limassol Dr. Cheverton.

He discovered, very soon, that he has a talent in running big distances and in 1933 at Pancyprian Games he won in 2 days at 1500 meters, 5000 meters. 10000 meters and 20000 meters.

In 1934, he comes to Greece and in the next years he became many times Greek and Balkan Champion at 5000 meters, 10000 meters and marathon, breaking Spyros Louis' record at the Marathon of 1934.

He participated at the Marathon of the Olympic Games in Berlin (1936) and he comes 11<sup>th</sup> and at the Marathon of the Olympic Games in London (1948) and he comes 19<sup>th</sup>.

At the Marathon of the British and Common wealth (AAA) in London he comes second, two times in 1935 and 1937 and nearly runs for Britain the 1936 Olympic games.

In 1946, he wins the Boston Marathon with a time of 2 hours 29' 27", breaking the European record and getting best time in the world that year.

He rejected lucrative offers to be a professional athlete in U.S.A. and to take part in films in Hollywood. With his own decision, he stayed in U.S.A. for about a month, in order to ask from the American people help for the devastated Greece and the hungry starving Greeks.

He collected U.S.\$ 250,000 in cash, a very large sum of money for that time, and material assistance that came from the US government and was named the "KYRIAKIDES AID PACKAGE" that included of medicines, tents, grain, tinned food, clothes and others necessities, including cows and bulls All these things comes to Greece and given to Greek people.

His welcome to Athens was an unforgettable event for everybody who lived at that time because more than 500,000 people were in the streets of Athens in order to welcome him.

The Government had that day as a "holiday" and the evening of same day Acropolis was lit for the first time after War.

He retired from athletics in 1948.

After he retired, he worked hard in his spare time for the revival of Greek track and field as a member of S.E.G.A.S., until the day he died, in 10<sup>th</sup> of December 1987.

He was the driving force that build the athletic track in Filothei, which is named after him, and started the boy scouts in Filothei .

He was the first man in Greece who, with the creation of Filothei track and athletic club started the organized revival of Athletics for youth.

Stylianos Kyriakides, popular and beloved from all the people who lived in Filothei suburb at the time, remember him going around Filothei's roads with his bicycle.

He strongly believed in the Olympic movement and Amateur Athletics and he is a bright and classic example of unselfishness and hard work, offering all his spare time to help people and the community.

Stylianos Kyriakides is popular inside and outside of Greece and has been honored and he is still being honored in Boston of America, in Greece and in they country he was born, Cyprus, from towns, municipalities, federations and private individuals.

His biography is in all WHO IS WHO books and he is mentioned in GUINNESS (Marathon) Book of records, that he held the marathon national record of Marathon for 36 years and 215 days.

Nowadays, they organize, in his memory, KYRIAKIDIA distance running events in many places in Greece and Cyprus.