



The Ron Russell Perseverance Award

Ron lived his life believing perseverance could overcome all obstacles. Along the way he inspired so many people. The Ron Russell Perseverance Award was created to encourage and recognize others who demonstrate those same qualities.

One winner, a participant in the 2019 North Canton July 4th Race, who embodies Ron's never-give-up spirit, will receive a donation in his/her name to the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign. The winner's name will appear on a plaque in the lobby at the Y.

Nominations

Submit a nomination by completing an entry form at the North Canton YMCA or by sending an e-mail with the same information to RussellAward@osmg.com. Nominations must be received by **Friday, June 21, 2019**.

Eligibility

- Must be a registered 2019 participant in either the 2-mile or 5-mile North Canton YMCA July 4th Races.
- Must be an inspiration to others or have demonstrated perseverance in overcoming obstacles to participate.
- The person can be of any age.

Judging

Representatives of the previous award recipients will join Ron's family and YMCA officials to evaluate the nominations and select one winner for 2019. The winner will be announced at the North Canton YMCA July 4th Race.

Ron always had a smile, was so positive and encouraging. We all marveled at his stamina and love of running.

- Tribute to Ron on Cantonrep.com

Ron lived the American dream. He was a WWII refugee, then WWII veteran. He later brought his family to the U.S. to make a better life. He and his wife Cathy started their own business on 12th Street in Canton and made sure each of their children earned a college education. Facing many obstacles in life, he demonstrated a never-give-up attitude that was infectious.

Running was just one more way he demonstrated remarkable perseverance. After years of attending his daughter's track meets, he found time to run himself only after he retired. Through arthritis, heart problems and the aches and pains of old age, he continued to run. He completed his first half marathon at age 71 and his first full marathon at 75. He celebrated each birthday with a 10-mile run and 10 pull-ups at the North Canton YMCA.

To coin a phrase from Ron, he "died healthy" in 2008 at 81 ... after a five-mile run.

The Ron Russell Perseverance Award 2019 Entry Form

Name of Person Nominated: _____

Nominee's Address: _____

Nominee's Phone: _____ email _____

The nominee is registered for 2019 July 4th ___ 2-mile race, or ___ 5-mile race

Has the person run the race in previous years?

___ multiple times ___ once ___ 2019 is the first time!

Describe in detail how this person has demonstrated perseverance in his/her life:

Describe in detail how this person has been an inspiration to others:

Person completing this form:

Name: _____ e-mail _____

Relationship to nominee: _____ Phone: _____

*Entries must be received by **Friday, June 21, 2019** at the front desk of the North Canton Y or via email at **RussellAward@osmg.com**. Questions? Send an e-mail.*