



Prescott YMCA Whiskey Row Marathon Al Clark Memorial Award Winner

May 14, 2016

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Award Nominee Name: *Ernest Andrus*

Briefly describe nominee's connection with the Whiskey Row Marathon.

(include distance, # of years, volunteerism, event, etc.) Ernest has run several WRM 10Ks. The first one at age 70. He ran the WRM half marathon at age 87 and 89.

Briefly describe nominee's running history. (include distance, # of years,

volunteerism, team training, etc.) Ernest started running later in life. He loves races, even finishing last. At age 92, he is close to finishing a multi-year run across America.

Explain why this nominee would be a deserving candidate for the Al Clark

Award. He has become a National celebrity with his Run Across America. Runner's World magazine, TV shows, local police escort, a huge following and he ran against Al Clark.

Give an example of the nominee's "spirit of determination".

Three years ago Ernest sold his home and began a run from the California coast to the Georgia coast to raise money to restore his US Navy ship currently in Alabama.

Describe one way that the nominee has helped others "run for the fun of it".

Ernest always encourages other runners. Often finishing last, he did not care. He loves having company on his runs.

List examples of at least one of the following: the nominee's involvement in nature preservation/appreciation, positive attitude, storytelling traditions.

Ernest's Storytelling: Ernest ran against Al Clark in local 10K races. Al was 10 years older than Ernest. Al would always finish ahead of Ernest until Al had surgery. After finishing ahead of Al, Ernest said to Al "Where's your pride?"

Facing prostate surgery, Al asked Ernest about his similar surgery including "they want to castrate me." Ernest told him to get a second opinion. Ernest's doctor, Dr. Griffin ran a half marathon with Ernest after the doctor had hip surgery. Ernest put an ad in the newspaper that he "obviously picked the right doctor." Doc Griffin responded with "Ernest, I am glad you didn't tell them we were the last to finish!"

In the Territorial Days 5K in Chino Valley, Ernest was last but later told Ken that he was really close to catching these 2 young chicks. Ken told Ernest "that was my life partner and her best friend." He said "Sorry, I couldn't see them from the front!"

Nominated by: Ken Ekman

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