

Famous Iditarod Names

Joe Redington, Sr. – Joe is honored and remembered as the co-founder and driving force behind the race. He is called the “Father of the Iditarod”. Joe passed away in 2000, but remains a ‘member of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Board of Directors, (Emeritus) and ‘remains on the Trail’.

Vi Redington- Vi was the wife of Joe Redington, Sr.

Rick Swenson – Rick is the “only” five time champion, champion to win in three different decades, and musher to have completed 30 plus Iditarods. His first Iditarod was in 1976. That year he finished in 10th place.

Dick Mackey – Dick is remembered as the only photo finish winner in Iditarod’s history, beating Rick Swenson by 1 second. (1978)

Col. Norman D Vaughan – In 1988, at age 88, Norman finished the race for the fourth time, and holds the record for being the oldest musher to finish the race. In 1993- 1994 he led an expedition to Antarctica.

Susan Butcher – Susan is remembered as the first woman to ever place in the top ten. She was also the first four-time winner of Iditarod. Susan was dedicated to good dog care and was a fierce competitor in Iditarod.

Jeff King, Martin Buser, and Doug Swingley- Jeff, Martin, and Doug are 3 time champions of the race. Doug and Susan won 3 consecutive years.

Libby Riddles – in 1985, Libby faced a deadly blizzard to become the first woman to win the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race®.

Emmitt Peters – Emmitt is remembered as the champion that set a race record pace in 1975 that wasn't broken until 1980. He is known as the Yukon River Fox.

Rick Mackey – in his 6th Iditarod and wearing bib #13, the same number his father wore in 1978 during his 6th race, crossed the finish line first in 1983, making Dick and Rick the only father and son to have won the Iditarod. (Until Lance Mackey, son of Dick and brother to Rick, won the Iditarod in 2005.)

Lance Mackey – Lance, brother to Rick, son of Dick, is the only 4 time back to back champion. (2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010) Lance won in 2007, his 6th race (like his father's win and his brother's win, in their 6th Iditarod) and wearing bib 13, like his father and brother had done. The numbers 6 and 13 are 'historically' Mackey numbers. Lance also won the Yukon Quest four years in a row. (2005, 2006, 2007, 2008) Lance won the 2007 Iditarod after winning the Yukon Quest only 10 days earlier, becoming the first musher to have won both races in the same year. Lance is a cancer survivor.

Joe Runyan – Joe was the 1989 champion and is the only musher to have won the Alpirod in Europe, the Yukon Quest, and the Iditarod.

Dorothy Page- Dorothy is remembered as the "Mother of the Iditarod".

John Baker- As the 2011 Iditarod Champion, John Baker, Kotzebue, became the first Inupiaq champion of Iditarod. This was John's 16th run in Iditarod.

Terry Adkins – Terry was the only veterinarian on the first Iditarod in 1973 and completed the race 18 times.

Doug Swingley – Doug, from Montana, was the first Iditarod winner living outside Alaska and he became the second four time champion of Iditarod.

Martin Buser – Martin is a four-time winner and was the first musher to break the nine-day barrier.

Herbie Nayokpuk – Herbie is remembered as the Eskimo from Shishmaref, the "Shishmaref Cannonball" who raced in eleven Iditarods.

DeeDee Jonrowe, Charlie Boulding, and Lance Mackey – These mushers came back to race again after life threatening bouts with cancer.

Many other Iditarod racers have raced after facing medical or health situations or have raced maintaining their health while facing medical conditions or have finished the race after dislocating an arm, breaking or breaking bones. An example:

Bruce Linton: Diabetes

Robert Sørli – Robert was first musher from out of the United States (Norway) to win the Iditarod.

Dallas Seavey- Dallas holds the record for being the youngest Iditarod Musher to finish the race. Dallas is a 3rd generation musher. His father, Mitch, is an Iditarod Champion and his grandfather raced 4 Iditarods.

Jon VanZyle: Jon is the Official Artist for Iditarod, having created yearly posters and prints depicting mushing and the history of the race. Jon also raced in Iditarod. (1976, 1979)

Jeff Schultz: Jeff is the Official Photographer for the Iditarod.

Dick Wilmarth- Dick was the first Iditarod Champion.

Dr. Stuart Nelson, Jr.- Dr. Nelson has played a key role in keeping a focus on outstanding dog care, setting high standards, training staff, veterinarians, and mushers, heading up research, and arriving at solutions to keep sled dogs healthy before, during, and after racing. Dr. Nelson exemplifies the personal and professional qualities necessary to maintain the credibility of the Iditarod as being an outstanding dog mushing event.

Iditarod Board of Directors- The Directors are elected by the Iditarod Trail Membership and are responsible for the decisions regarding the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Iditarod Staff: Stan Hooley, Executive Director, and other staff members are hired to uphold the mission statement and guidelines of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. See a list of staff on the website.

Iditarod Air Force: These pilots are the best of the best pilots, dedicated to the race, making sure supplies, people, and dogs are where they need to be before, during, and after the race.