



GLOBETROTTER MARATHON PROGRAM

Charles Klotsche – Executive Director, Founder

Palm Beach, Florida www.globetrottermarathon.org 2008 – 2009



The **Globetrotter Marathon Program** was established in the fall of 2007, to offer a unique experience for severely disabled veterans from the Iraq and Afghan conflicts. The program provides financial and other support for these worthy men and women when they are traveling to participate in internationally recognized marathons around the world. These Globetrotters are single and double amputees who smartly navigate the 26 mile course in handcrank wheelchairs and do so in tandem with the marathon's elite runners.

The program is an extension of the domestic marathon program of the Achilles Track Club (established 25 years ago, as a 501(c) tax entity), known as the Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans started in 2004. The Achilles Track Club has 60 chapters worldwide.

The Globetrotter Marathon Program offers these exceptional men and women a special opportunity as they begin the difficult path to re-integration into their local communities. Participation in these global competitions helps boost their self-esteem and competitive spirit, broadens their global horizons and allows them to serve as ambassadors of goodwill on behalf of the country they so ably served and for which they made life-changing sacrifices in the name of freedom.

Since the Globetrotter Marathon's inception these Vets have trained to compete in Berlin, Moscow, Budapest and Krakow, Poland to symbolically carry the American Flag before tens of thousands of runners and hundreds of thousands of international sports fans. The 2009 racing schedule will include marathons in Paris and Montreal. The program now flies under the banner "Disabled Vets on the Move" and these men and women do just that when they burst out from the starting line just ahead of the elite runners in full view of the media.



On Sunday, September 28, 2008, the Globetrotter Marathon program entered 6 athletes in the Berlin competition which involved some 40,000 participants. Our team as well as 230 other wheelchair racers

started approximately five minutes before the elite runners for this special event. Our traveling team of 11 gathered in NYC for the flight over and received great recognition at the start and finish lines, not to mention the encouragement along the race course from approximately one million fans that watched the race. Our trip was sponsored by the **Clark Charitable Foundation**, of Bethesda, MD, as well as from contributions from several members of the Palm Beach Community.



The Globetrotter Marathon Program initiated its program by sending the Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans to The Moscow International Peace Marathon. Our delegation consisted of four wounded veterans, three of their wives and two members of the Achilles Staff. The traveling team flew direct from Atlanta to Moscow, where the entire 6-day stay was hosted by **McDonalds Russia**, (accommodations, meals and ground transportation).



Practice runs around the Kremlin the day before the race



Six members of the Freedom Team at the starting line in Berlin



Freedom Team on a cold rainy day at the Starting Line at the Moscow Marathon

Berlin Marathon Con't.

Berlin is one of the premier marathons, world wide and all of our athletes finished the race with dignity. **Jacqui Kapanoswki** brought home the bronze metal for women in wheelchairs, a terrific accomplishment given the stiff nature of the competition. We spent Friday traveling, Saturday practicing and fixing the equipment, and Monday site seeing the city of Berlin. As is the case on most of our international marathons we acted as ambassadors of good will for the U.S., by showing the sacrifices that our men and women have made for their country in both Iraq and Afghanistan.



*Team Members at Registration
Berlin Marathon*



*Making a Presentation to the
Berlin Fire Fighters*

POLAND MARATHON

The Clark Charitable Foundation of Bethesda, Maryland, funded our freedom team of wounded Veterans to Poland, consisting of five wounded men and one woman, as well as a traveling staff of three Achilles associated individuals and an interpreter of Polish decent. Our team effort was met with great enthusiasm starting at the airport where the National Polish TV (PTV 3) covered our arrival with great fanfare. The Achilles Track Club has five chapters in Poland that helped pave the way as they have had a presence there for over 20 years. Dozens of their local handicapped racers



Freedom Team at the starting line

joined our team, some who were visually impaired or blind, the blind often accompanied by tethered adjoining runners, proving again how the wounded veterans marathon participation serves as ambassadors of good will in the international community for the United States.

The Freedom Team had great local support from the Mayor's office, Jacek Majchrowski, providing the handicapped transportation, interpreters for the sight seeing aspect of our stay, several meals and the entire cost of housing at the university. Additionally the United States Consul General's Office in Krakow let us use their facilities for promotional purposes. Other supporters included the Polish office of the International Law Firm of Baker and McKenzie.



*Exec. Dir. Charles Klotsche interviewed by
Polish National TV*



Krakow Awards Ceremony

A special thanks to **Dr. Dick Traum, Ph.D.** who founded the **Achilles Track Club** in 1983, and who was the first amputee to run a marathon, including 12 times in NYC and to **Mary Bryant, Founder of the Freedom Team Program**, for their ongoing encouragement of our program. Visit their website at www.achillestrackclub.org. A special thanks to the late **George "Bud" Graves** and his family for providing 600,000 air transportation points to the Moscow Marathon. A special thanks to **George Cohon**, Founder of McDonalds Russia and his staff for providing the accommodations, meals, interpreters and ground transportation during our September 2007 stay in Moscow and to the **Ronald McDonald Center** for their hospitality. A special thanks to **Mr. and Mrs. A. James Clark** and the **Clark Charitable Foundation, Inc.** in Bethesda, Maryland, and to **Howard Robert Alton Jr.** for their generous contribution that will go a long way in providing the necessary support for the Berlin and Krakow Marathons. Other important contributors are not limited to but include Ms. Carol Digges, Mr. and Mrs. John Morris, Ms. Di Mendoza, Mrs. Robert Peterson, Ms. Dyanne Tosi, Ms. Barbara Selectman, Mrs. Robert Francis, Ms. Catherine Ross, Mrs. Joe Jack Merriman, Mr. George Bud Graves, and Baker & McKenzie Poland.

Since its inception, the Achilles Track Club has expanded to over 46 cities in the United States and in over 60 foreign countries where Achilles runners use crutches, braces and artificial limbs and wheelchairs, or often after extensive rehabilitation, run without aids. **The Globetrotter Marathon Program** was proud to have taken the Freedom Team beyond our borders for the first time, and hope that you will support our efforts.



Globetrotter Marathon

Make Check Payable to:
 Achilles Track Club, Inc.
 A 501(c)3 Organization
 Fed Tax ID: 133318293

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**Freedom Team at golf outing,
 Palm Beach, 2008**

We are delighted to be part of the Achilles Track Club, Inc. that is celebrating the 25th anniversary of its founding in 2008.



Executive Director Charles Klotsche with Elmer Dinglassan at the finish line in Palm Beach

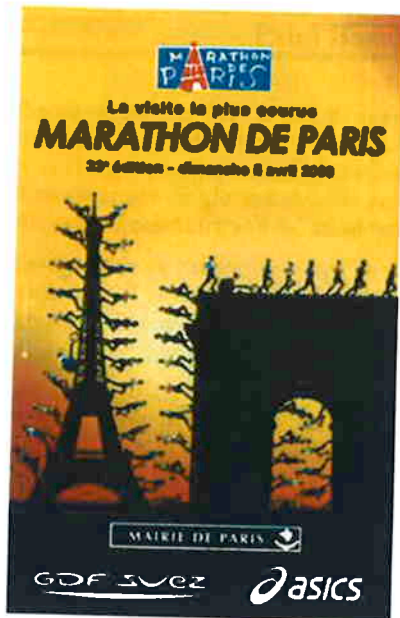


Mary Bryant, founder of the Freedom Team Program being interviewed in Krakow



Johnathan Holsey being interviewed on National Polish Television (NPT3)

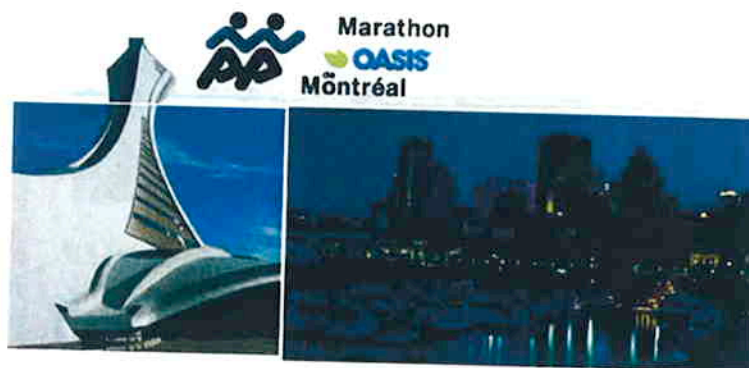
2009 SCHEDULED EVENTS



The Globetrotter Marathon Program plans to take six athletes, their wives and members of the Achilles Support Staff to Paris for the *Marathon de Paris* on **April 5, 2009**. We would appreciate your financial support in this worthwhile adventure. This will be our fifth international marathon.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.globetrottermarathon.org



The Globetrotter Marathon Program plans to take a few members of the Freedom Team to Montreal on **September 13, 2009**, to attend the **Marathon Oasis Montreal**. This will be our sixth international marathon.



The Freedom Team / Globetrotter Marathon Program entered the November 2008 Veterans Day Parade in West Palm Beach. Pictured are Charles Klotsche, Executive Director, Global Marathon Program, and Mary Bryant, Executive Director, Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans.



About the Founder of the Globetrotter Marathon Program . . .

Charles Klotsche, a former officer in the United States Marine Corps was discharged with an Honorable Medical Discharge in 1963. He is a former successful businessman, author of 12 books, avid outdoorsman, ecologist and new age thinker. He lives in Palm Beach, Florida.