



MEDIA ALERT

MEDIA CONTACT: TAMI FARAM
tami.faram@usmc.mil
703.432.1840 (o), 703.862.6957 (c)
www.MarineMarathon.com

Runner Misrepresents Himself as Overall Finisher of Marine Corps 17.75K *Marine Corps Marathon bans two individuals from 2014 participation*

QUANTICO, VA (April 16, 2014) – The Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) has learned that the individual credited with being the top finisher in the Marine Corps 17.75K hosted in Prince William County, VA on Saturday, April 12 misrepresented himself after obtaining an illegally transferred entry into the event.

Steven Henry, 38, of Odenton, MD, was named the overall finisher completing the Marine Corps 17.75K in 1:04:25, but Henry gave his official runner's bib to Gerardo Avila of Triangle, VA.

Henry, who registered on Feb. 19 for the Marine Corps 17.75K, illegally transferred his entry to Avila in direct violation of MCM policy. Avila, participating under the name of Henry, was the first runner to complete the 11.03 mile course and was appropriately recognized as the winner. In post-event interviews, Avila misrepresented himself as Henry. Avila completed the MCM in 2001 and 2009, where he placed 7th overall in the Marathon. Henry completed the 2007 MCM.

As a result of their disregard for event registration policy and blatant misrepresentation, both runners will be punished. The MCM is prohibiting Henry and Avila from participating in the 39th MCM occurring on Oct. 26 and in any MCM event through the remainder of this year.

“Illegal transfers of bibs have significant ramifications including potentially altering age award results but more significantly, should a bandit runner require medical attention during the event, medical personnel would not have necessary information about that individual,” says MCM Director Rick Nealis. “Participation in any MCM event echoes the U.S. Marine Corps values of honor, courage and commitment. What these two runners did defied these ideals. They badly misjudged the conviction of the Marines, our commitment to these core values and the integrity of our sport.”

MCM registration policy allows only for the official transfer of bibs for Marathon entries, or from the Marathon to the MCM10K but not for any other MCM event. After registering for the MCM, some runners ultimately decide they are unable to participate in a marathon. These runners may opt to transfer their entry to a non-registered runner through the official MCM Transfer Program, which opens June 11. Only those currently registered for the MCM may transfer an entry to another runner.

The Marine Corps 17.75K awarded all official finishers (age 14 and above) a guaranteed access pass to the 39th MCM. The limited field of 1,775 entries was in high demand as registration completely sold for the event in just nine minutes. All marathon entries were also sold through the MCM Lottery.

Marine Corps 17.75K second-place finisher Jeremy Lynch, 33, of Springfield, VA is being credited as the overall winner. Lynch has been invited to accept his first-place finisher award during the 17.75K Awards Ceremony that will be held on April 22 in Prince William County, VA.

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Marine Corps 17.75K
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Both third place finisher, Alex Hetherington of Vienna, VA and fourth place finisher Andrew Dobish of Lancaster, PA will be presented second and third place finisher awards.

The Marine Corps 17.75K hosted 1,749 finishers. The 39th MCM will be held on Sunday, Oct. 26 in Arlington, VA and throughout the nation's capital.

The Marine Corps Marathon is the third largest marathon in the United States and eighth largest in the world. Voted the "Best Marathon in the Mid Atlantic" and the "Best Marathon for Charities," the MCM honors the dedication, sportsmanship and patriotism of its participants. "The People's Marathon" is the largest marathon not to offer prize money. The 39th MCM, sponsored by Arlington, Brooks and GE, will be held on October 26, 2014 in Arlington, VA. No federal or Marine Corps endorsement is implied. #RunWithTheMarines.

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