



MEDIA RELEASE

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#RunWithTheMarines

f Marine Corps Marathon

@Marine_Marathon

Local Runner Defends Turkey Trot Title

Over 200 runners earned the Distinguished Participant Medal

QUANTICO, VA (November 18, 2023) – Jonathan Ladson of Woodbridge, Va., age 32, defended his championship as the Turkey Trot overall winner on Saturday, November 18. He finished first of 923 runners in this morning’s Turkey Trot 10K, presented by Dick’s Sporting Goods and Tour Stafford, Va., aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico, one final calorie-burning event before Thanksgiving.

Ladson crossed the finish line first with a time of 33:31, besting last year’s time by 27 seconds. His inspiration came from his daughter who overcame a health scare in September which almost took her life. “Going through the mile with her (his daughter) and seeing her push herself today, even when it got tough, so when it came to the 10K, I just wanted to go out there and push as hard as I could,” expressed Ladson. “I remembered everything that she went through in her journey. It was really emotional just being there for her first mile back and me being out there to show her that she is stronger than she thinks now, and I am stronger than I think I am.”

The first female finisher to break the tape was Natalie Daniels from Fredericksburg, Va., age 31, setting a new female course record with a time of 36:16. It was Daniels’ first time running the Turkey Trot. “It was a lot of fun,” expressed Daniels. “This was a big PR (personal record) for me. The male who finished right in front passed me at mile 5.7, so I knew I needed to go.” Daniels previously won the 2022 Marine Corps Historic Half.

Rounding out the top finishers for this year’s event are Mike Mason, age 40, from Stafford, Va. who placed second among males with a time of 36:07, and Jordan Bertoglio, age 36, from Quantico, Va. with a time of 36:30 placing third among males. Jilane Petre, age 39, from Washington, D.C. with a time of 38:56 and Victoria Velasco, age 22, from Woodbridge, Va. with a time of 41:46, placed second and third among females respectively.

About another 200 participants took on the Turkey Trot Mile, which was open to all ages.

Unofficial results are available at www.marinemarathon.com.

Among today’s finishers were over 200 Distinguished Participants who completed their final 2023 MCMO event live run to earn the coveted medal. These runners walked away with this exclusive recognition this year, having participated in all five event weekends:

- Marine Corps 17.75K in March
- One of the Marine Corps Historic Half Events (Devil Dog Double, Historic Half or Semper 5ive) in May
- Quantico 12K in August
- One of the MCM Weekend Events (marathon, MCM50K or MCM10K) in October
- Turkey Trot in November

All participants received a unique Thanksgiving Turkey Trot shirt and medal. Top finishers and age-award winners received frozen Thanksgiving turkeys or pies provided by Wegmans.



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Runners may kick off their commitment to running with the Marines in 2024 by participating in the new virtual event, Hometown Challenge: Sergeants Major of the Marine Corps. Participants create a team of five to complete 10,523.6 scaled miles, one mile run translates to three miles) from January 1 to November 10. Registration is open on marinemarathon.com.

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