

## **Open Water Swimming Heroes from the Americas**

The International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame was established as an affiliated organization to the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 1963 to honor athletes, coaches, pilots and administrators in the global marathon swimming community.

The initial selection committee decided that a marathons swim must be at least 16 kilometers (10 miles) long. Later committees extended the minimum distance to twenty-five kilometers (15.5 miles).

From the Americas, there have been 93 individuals from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Peru, Mexico and the USA inducted. These inductees include:

- 1. Diego Degano, Argentina**
- 2. Alfredo Camarero, Argentina**
- 3. Silvia Beatríz Dalotto, Argentina**
- 4. Pedro A Candiotti, Argentina**
- 5. Antonio Abertondo, Argentina**
- 6. Lilian Harrison, Argentina**
- 7. Horacio Iglesias, Argentina**
- 8. Carlos Larriera, Argentina**
- 9. Gustavo Oriozabala, Argentina**
- 10. Claudio Plit, Argentina**
- 11. Abilio Couto, Brazil**
- 12. Igor De Sousa, Brazil**
- 13. George Duthie, Canada**
- 14. Christine Cossette, Canada**
- 15. Robert Cossette, Canada**
- 16. Jacques Amyot, Canada**
- 17. Lynn Blouin, Canada**
- 18. Marilyn Bell, Canada**
- 19. Helge Jensen, Denmark/Canada**
- 20. Vicki Keith Munro, Canada**
- 21. Cliff Lumsdon, Canada**
- 22. Cynthia Nicholas, Canada**
- 23. Gilles Potvin, Canada**
- 24. Gus Ryder, Canada**
- 25. Greg Steppel, Canada**
- 26. Patty Thompson, Canada**
- 27. Margaret Park Wisniski, Canada**
- 28. Jose Cortinas, Cuba**
- 29. Daniel Eulogio Carpio Massioti “Carpayo”, Peru**
- 30. Nora Toledano Cadena, Mexico**
- 31. Greta Anderson, USA**
- 32. Paul Asmuth, USA**
- 33. David Alleva, USA**
- 34. Tina Bischoff, USA**
- 35. Dr. Harry H. Briggs, USA**

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36. Sid Cassidy, USA
37. Florence Chadwick, USA
38. David Stevens Clark, USA
39. James "Doc" Counsilman, USA
40. Lynne Cox, USA
41. William Forest "Buck" Dawson, USA
42. Penny Lee Dean, USA
43. James Doty, USA
44. Robert Dowling, USA
45. Gertrude Ederle, USA
46. Jon Erikson, USA
47. Ted Erikson, USA
48. Benjamin Franklin, USA
49. Joe Grossman, USA
50. Ashby "Bud" Harper, USA
51. Tom Hetzel, USA
52. Chad Hundeby, USA
53. Captain Tim Johnson, USA
54. Peter Jurzynski, USA
55. Marian Cassidy Keen, USA
56. James Kegley, USA
57. Jerry Kerschner, USA
58. John Kinsella, USA
59. Marcella A. MacDonald, PDM, USA
60. Dennis Matuch, USA
61. Jim Moran, USA
62. Eva Morrison, USA
63. Steven Munatones, USA
64. Keo Nakama, USA
65. Paul E. "Jerry" Nason, USA
66. Marvin "Duke" Nelson, USA
67. Martha Norelius, USA
68. Diana Nyad, USA
69. Tom Park, USA
70. Dale Petranech, USA
71. Karen Burton Reeder, USA
72. Julie Ridge, USA
73. Norman Ross, USA
74. Charlotte "Lottie" Schoemmell, USA
75. Charles "Red" Silva, USA
76. Carol Sing, USA
77. Marty Sinn, USA
78. John Sigmund, USA
79. David Smith, USA
80. Skip Storch, USA
81. Henry Sullivan, USA

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- 82. Stella Taylor, USA
- 83. Bert Thomas, USA
- 84. James Toomey, USA
- 85. James Whelan, USA
- 86. Johnny Weissmuller, USA
- 87. Conrad Wennerberg, USA)
- 88. Ralph Willard, USA
- 89. Steve Wozniak, USA
- 90. William Wrigley, Jr., USA
- 91. John York, USA
- 92. David Yudovin, USA
- 93. Charles Zibleman, USA

Details on the careers of the inductees are listed below alphabetically, followed by their year of induction.

### **Diego Degano, Argentina (1995)**

Diego was a professional marathon swimmer in the 1990's. He won the 40K (25-mile) Traversée internationale du Lac St-Jean race in 1991, was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 1992 race in 9 hours and 47 minutes and was 5<sup>th</sup> in the 1993 race in 9 hours and 33 minutes.

### **Alfredo Camarero, Argentina (1978)**

Alfredo twice swam the English Channel. He won the Billy Butlin International Channel race from France to England in 11 hours and 43 minutes in 1959 and the 1960 race from France to England in 12 hours and 23 minutes. He also won the 36K (22.5-mile) Around the Island Swim in Atlantic City, USA in 12 hours and 17 minutes in 1957.

### **Silvia Beatriz Dalotto, Argentina (2005)**

Silvia was the International Marathon Swimming Association world champion in 1990 after winning the Santa Fé- Coronda Marathon in Argentina, getting third in the Travesía Bahía de Todos los Santos in Brazil, the 32K (20-mile) Maratona del Golfo - Capri Napoli in Italy, the Lago Trasimeno Marathon in Italy and the Around the Island Marathon in Atlantic City, USA, and fifth in the 42K (26-mile) Traversée Internationale du Lac Memphrémagog in Canada. She was the third overall in the 1991 International Marathon Swimming Association, sixth in 1992, fifth in 1993, third in 1994, third in 1995 and second in 1996.

Upon completion of her marathon swimming career, Silvia received many awards and honors from the Argentine Olympic Committee and the International Olympic Committee and became a FINA Open Water Official, judging at the FINA Open Water World Championships in Barcelona and other FINA World Cup races.

### **Pedro A Candiotti, Argentina (1965)**

Pedro, known as the "Shark of Quilla Creek", swam from 1922 to 1946, primarily in Argentina rivers including a 390K (242-mile) swim between March 14 and 17, 1930 from Goya to Santa Fe in a total time of 66 hours and 15 minutes down the River Plate. He tried 17 times to swim 328K (204 miles) from Rosario to Buenos Aires in Argentina, but failed with his last attempt of 74

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hours and 30 minutes. His longest swim was 84 hours in length when he swam 452K (281 miles) down the Parana River from Santa Fe to Zarate in Argentina.

### **Antonio Abertondo, Argentina (1964)**

From 1942 to 1961, Antonio swam many marathon swims in Argentina. In 1946, he successfully crossed Rio de la Plata in 29+ hours. His five English Channel crossings were in the 1950 and 1951 Daily Mail races, the 1954 Butlin race and in 1961 when he became the first person to do a double-crossing of the English Channel in 43 hours and 10 minutes (with a four-minute onshore rest).

### **Lilian Harrison, Argentina (1973)**

Lilian was the first person to swim 42K (26 miles) across the River Plate from Uruguay to Argentina in 1923 at the age of 20. In 1925, she won the 42K (26-mile) Seine River race that ended in Paris and attempted a valiant swim in the English Channel.

### **Horacio Iglesias, Argentina (1968)**

Horacio, known as Dorado, was the World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation world champion in 1967, 1969, 1971 and 1972. He was runner-up in 1968 and 1970. He won the 24-hour La Tuque relay swim six times with three different partners, including Egypt's Abou Heif and Holland's Judith DeNys. He also won the 34K (21-mile) Traversée internationale du Lac St-Jean professional race in Canada in 8 hours and 55 minutes in 1967, in 9 hours and 31 minutes in 1968, in 9 hours and 32 minutes in 1969, in 8 hours and 39 minutes in 1971 with a second in 1970, and excelled in the warm-water professional swims in South America. He won 37K (23-mile) Descente ou remontée du Saguenay in 6 hours and 3 minutes in 1967 and was fifth in 9 hours and 22 minutes in 1968.

He was also honored by the International Swimming Hall of Fame as an Honor Open Water Swimmer.

### **Carlos Larriera, Argentina (1969)**

Carlos won the professional 57K (36-mile) Santa Fe-Coronda river swim in Argentina in 8 hours in 1961 and in 11 hours and 38 minutes in 1962 and was fourth in 1963 and fifth in 1965. He was second in the 32K (20-mile) Traversée internationale du Lac St-Jean professional race in 9 hours and 53 minutes in 1960.

### **Gustavo Oriozabala, Argentina (2001)**

Gustavo finished second overall on the professional marathon swimming circuit in 1992 and third in 1995. His swims include 42K (26-mile) Traversée internationale du Lac Memphrémagog in Canada in 1991, 1992 and 1993, 34K (21-mile) Traversée internationale du Lac St-Jean in Canada in 1992, 1993 and 1994, the 36K (22.5-mile) Around the Island Swim in Atlantic City, USA in 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993, the professional 32K (20-mile) Maratona del Golfo - Capri Napoli in 1991, the 57K (36-mile) Santa Fe-Coronda river swim in Argentina in 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994, the 42K (26-mile) Ponza-Cierco swim in Italy in 1990 and 1991, the 28K (17.3-mile) Furth-Nurenberg swim in Germany in 1994, the 41K (25.4-mile) Cruce Bahia de Todos swim in Brazil in 1991, the 35K (21.7-mile) Silvan Lake swim in Canada in 1993, the 88K (54.6-mile) Hernandaras-Parana river swim in Argentina in 1993 and 1994, the 25K (15.5-

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mile) Holland swim in 1995, crossed the English Channel in 1993, the 41K (25-mile) Rio de Plata swim from Uruguay to Argentina in 1993 in 27°C (F) water, the 180K (112-mile) Parana Crossing in Argentina in 20:07, and a 47K (29.2-mile) double-crossing of the Strait of Gibraltar in 14 hours and 14 minutes.

He was the first man to cross 20K (12.4 miles) in Lake Titicaca from Peru to Bolivia in 12°C (53.6°F) in 5 hours and 6 minutes 1997. He swam 2K in 3°C (37.4°F) for 21 minutes to become the first person to complete the Beagle Crossing from Argentina to Chile. He also completed a triple-crossing of the Beagle Crossing in 7°C (44.6°F) in 1 hour and 9 minutes in 1998.

### **Claudio Plit, Argentina (1981)**

Claudio has won major professional marathon races for over 30 years and was first or second nine times between 1974 and 1984 while finishing first, second or third in 45 professional marathon swims between 1874 and 1984.

He has competed in the prestigious 34K (21-mile) Traversée internationale du Lac St-Jean in Canada over 25 times. He won the 64K (39.7-mile) double-crossing of the Traversée internationale du Lac St-Jean in Canada two times. He has won every major professional marathon race, some several times. A partial list of his victories include the 42K (26-mile) Traversée internationale du Lac Memphrémagog in Canada, the 36K (22.5-mile) Around the Island Marathon Swim in Atlantic City, USA, the 32K (20-mile) Maratona del Golfo - Capri Napoli, the 58K (36-mile) Santa Fe-Coronda race in Argentina, 29K (18-mile) Paspebiac swim in Canada, the 51.5K (32-mile) Lake Ontario swim in Canada, the 88K (54.6-mile) Hernandaras-Parana swim in Argentina, the 45K (28-mile) Saguenay River swim in Canada, the 24-hour Lac La Tuque relay in Canada, and the Suez Canal, Port Said and Nile River swims in Egypt.

He is the race director for the 38.6K (24-mile) Mar de Plata and Rosario Marathon Swims in Argentina, coaches and escorts swimmers participating on the professional circuit, and has participated as a guest presenter at FINA Open Water Swimming seminars.

### **Abilio Couto, Brazil (2001)**

Abilio swam from France to England and, with only 14 days rest, swam the other way from England to France in 12 hours and 49 minutes to set a world record in 1959. He was the first Brazilian and the South American to swim the English Channel.

He won eight International Long-Distance Swimming Federation events from 1959 to 1975 and was the four-time overall champion in 1959, 1961, 1963 and 1967. He was instrumental in the establishment of the first Brazil National Open Water Championships and many other events including the 25K (15.5-mile) Ilhabela-Caraguatauba swim. He swam the English Channel three times including his 1959 England-to-France record. He unofficially crossed the Catalina Channel in 1968 as well as the Strait of Gibraltar in 1965, Lake Michigan in 1965, the Suez Canal in 1974, the Nile River in 1975, Mar del Plata in 1960 and Lake Ontario in 1960.

It is estimated that Abilio swam more than 40,000K (28,854 miles) during his career.

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### **Igor De Sousa, Brazil (2004)**

Igor swam the English Channel in 11 hours and 6 minutes in 1996 as the best male time of the year. He swam an 18 hour and 33 minute double-crossing of the English Channel in 1997 whose first (9 hours and 31 minutes) and second (9 hours and 2 minutes) legs were the fastest times for crossings in that year. Igor won the 48K (28.5-mile) Manhattan Island Marathon Swim twice in 1994 and 2001. He started swimming International Marathon Swimming Association events in 1985 and was ranked in the top 10 between 1987 and 1994. For 15 years, he competed all over the world, winning some races and finishing all. He swam 36K (22.5-mile) Around-the-Island Marathon Swim in Atlantic City, USA a total of ten times.

### **George Duthie, Canada (1966)**

George organized the famous professional Canadian National Exhibition swims from 1933 to 1968 as the Canadian National Exhibition Manager of Sports Department and was later inducted in the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada's Hall of Fame.

### **Christine Cossette, Canada (1982)**

In 1984, Christine, a 22-year old Canadian swimmer, became the first person to complete a 64K (39.7-mile) double-crossing of lac St-Jean in Quebec, Canada in 18 hours and 27 minutes, leading to an annual double-crossing race from 1985 to 1989. After completing the first leg in 9 hours and 29 minutes, she swam the second leg in 8 hours and 59 minutes.

### **Robert Cossette, Canada (2004)**

Despite being crippled in one leg by polio, Robert participated in the 32K (19.8-mile) Traversée internationale du lac St-Jean from 1955 to 1965, the 32K (19.8-mile) Traversée de la Manche from Angleterre – France, the 51K (32-mile) Traversée du Lac Ontario (Marathon de Brading), the Ste-Anne de Beaupré, the 70K (44-mile) Montréal swim, the 35K (22-mile) Around Atlantic City Swim, the 16K (10-mile) Trois-Rivières Swim, the Marathon de l'Expo de Toronto, the Lac Simon Swim, the Détroit de Juan de Fuca and La Gilman Chibougamau Swim. He was the first person to swim 37K (23 miles) from Chicoutimi to Bagotville in the Saguenay River in Canada that resulted in the annual la Descente ou remontée du Saguenay numerous times. He was president from 1973 to 1988 of the Marathon du Saguenay and trained several swimmers for la Traversée internationale du lac St-Jean and 37K (23-mile) la Descente du Saguenay.

### **Jacques Amyot, Canada (1995)**

Jacques was the first person to swim across lac St-Jean in Quebec, Canada in 1955. His efforts lead to the formation of la Traversée internationale du lac St-Jean, one of the world's longest and best organized professional marathon swimming races. On July 23rd, 1955, seven swimmers signed up for the first crossing of la Traversée internationale du lac St-Jean, but only Jacques finished the 26K (16-mile) swim in 11 hours and 32 minutes.

### **Lynn Blouin, Canada (2004)**

Lynn has been in marathon swimming administration for nearly 20 years. She began as a staff person for the professional 42K (26-mile) Traversée Internationale du Lac Memphrémagog in Quebec, Canada and rose to the position of President and Race Director from 1993-1995.

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Lynn also helped form the International Marathon Swimming Federation which later became the International Marathon Swimming Association. She was active in conducting many world events from 1997 to 2002 as General Secretary of the International Marathon Swimming Association. She is also serves as the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame Vice President.

### **Marilyn Bell, Canada (1967)**

16-year-old Marilyn was the first person to swim 51.4K (32 miles) across Lake Ontario in 1953. As a 17-year-old, she became the youngest English Channel swimmer for a period of eight years. She swam from Cap Gris Nez, France to East Wear Bay, England in July 1955.

### **Helge Jensen, Denmark/Canada (1970)**

Helge swam the English Channel in 13 hours and 17 minutes in 1959 in the Butlin International race and set a record in the English Channel from England to France in 10 hours and 23 minutes in 1960 that stood for 12 years. He won the 1959 34K (21-mile) Traversée internationale du Lac St-Jean professional race in Canada and finished second in the 1958 race.

### **Vicki Keith Munro, Canada (2003)**

Vicki completed an incredible number of record swims including swimming 69K (43 miles) in a pool in 24 hours in 1990. During 1989, she swam butterfly across the 35K (22-mile) Catalina Channel in 14 hours and 53 minutes, 51.5K (32 miles) of butterfly in 31 hours across Lake Ontario, 28.9K (18 miles) of butterfly in 13 hours in Lake Winnipeg, 32K (20 miles) of butterfly in 14 hours in Juan de Fuca, 23 hours and 33 minutes of butterfly across the English Channel, and 22.5K (14 miles) of butterfly in 13 hours and 30 minutes in a circumnavigation of Sydney Harbour.

During 1988, Vicki first and only person to swim across all five of the North American Great Lakes – all within an astounding 61-day period. She swam 51.5K (32 miles) in Lake Ontario in 23 hours and 30 minutes, 38.6K (24 miles) of butterfly in Lake Ontario, 32K (20 miles) in 17 hours in Lake Superior, 72.4K (45 miles) in 53 hours in Lake Michigan, 77K (48 miles) in 46 hours and 55 minutes in Lake Huron, and 32K (20 miles) in 20 hours in Lake Erie.

During 1987, Vicki did the first double-crossing (64 miles) of Lake Ontario in 56 hours and 10 minutes. In 1986, she did a 129 hour and 45 minute continuous pool swim in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. In 1985, she did a 100-hour continuous pool swim in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. In 1985, she did 12 miles of butterfly in 11 hours and 30 minutes in Lake Ontario.

Vicki has won numerous awards and honors from dozens of government agencies in Canada. She coaches children with disabilities, Carlos Costa, a double leg amputee who became the first disabled athlete to swim across Lake Ontario, and Ashley Cowan, a quadruple amputee who swam across Lake Erie. Her positive spirit and tireless dedication has changed attitudes towards total inclusion for children with disabilities in the sports of swimming and marathon swimming.

### **Cliff Lumsdon, Canada (1969)**

Cliff was one of the world's great marathon swimmers and a five-time world champion between 1949 and 1954. He was known for his ability to swim in cold water, once going 51.5K (32 miles) in 18-plus hours in water temperatures ranging between 8.8° - 11.1°C (48°F - 52°F)

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Cliff's most famous swim was the 51.5K (32-mile) Canadian National Exhibition swim in 1955. The 35 starters dropped out with Cliff the only one left in the water; however, after 26 miles, he had also started to tire. The remaining 9.6K (6 miles) involved lots of media involvement - leading local businessmen to add numerous extra items to the \$15,000 first prize. One offer, involving \$1 for every stroke used on the last 8K (5 miles), added another \$15,000 to the prize. Other offers involved a hunting lodge and a house. The result was that Cliff was the only finisher, with prizes, gifts (hunting lodge and house) and consumer endorsements that totalled US\$84,000.

His cold-water abilities were reflected in his 1956 11 hour and 35 minute crossing of the Straits of Juan de Fuca between the state of Washington and Vancouver Island in 8.8°C (48°F) water.

In the 35K (22-mile) professional Around-the-Island Marathon Swim in Atlantic City, USA, he finished second in 1954 in 9 hours and 25 minutes, a close second in 9 hours and 56 minutes in 1955, finished first in 9 hours and 51 minutes in 1956, second in 12 hours and 9 minutes in 1958, first in 10 hours and 54 minutes in 1959, second in 10 hours and 40 minutes in 1960, third in 11 hours and 36 minutes in 1961, second in 12 hours and 1 minutes in 1962, fourth in 12 hours and 13 minutes in 1963 and fourth in 10 hours and 32 minutes in 1964. He finished third in 7 hours and 22 minutes in the 37K (23-mile) la Descente ou remontée du Saguenay in Canada in 1965 and tied for third in 6 hours and 39 minutes in 1966.

In the Canadian National Exhibition professional marathon swims in Toronto, he finished fifth in the 16K (10-mile) 1948 race in 4 hours and 47 minutes, first in the 24K (15-mile) 1949 race in 7 hours and 54 minutes, first in the 24K (15-mile) 1950 race in 7 hours and 18 minutes, third in the 16K (10-mile) 1951 race in 4 hours and 32 minutes, first in the 16K (10-mile) 1952 race in 4 hours and 24 minutes, first in the 16K (10-mile) 1953 race in 4 hours and 26 minutes, first in the 51.5K (32-mile) 1955 race in 19 hours and 48 minutes, fourth in the 15-mile 1961 race in 7 hours and 36 minutes, second in the 24K (15-mile) 1962 race in 7 hours and 26 minutes, and sixth in the 24K (15-mile) 1963 race in 7 hours and 58 minutes.

In 1949, he won the Lou Marsh Trophy for the outstanding Canadian Athlete of the Year. The Cliff Lumsdon Award is presented for outstanding achievement in marathon swimming in association Ontario.

In 1972, Cliff was elected president of the World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation.

### **Cynthia Nicholas, Canada (1978)**

At age 16, Cindy Nicholas became the fastest swimmer to cross Lake Ontario with a time of 15 hours and 10 minutes. Cindy's career includes 19 crossings of the English Channel and the first woman to complete a double-crossing of the English Channel. Of her 19 crossings, 10 involved two-way swims, including a double-crossing record of 18 hours and 51 minutes in 1982 and an England-France record of 8 hours and 21 minutes on the first leg of her in 1981 double-crossing.

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Cindy competed in the 32K (20-mile) Traversée internationale du Lac St-Jean races in 1976, 1977 and 1978. Her other achievements include her appointment to the Order of Canada in 1979 and the Canadian Women Athlete of the Year.

### **Gilles Potvin, Canada (2006)**

Gilles participated in many of the Quebec, Canada professional marathon swims: 34K (21-mile) Traversée internationale du Lac St-Jean, the 45K (28-mile) Saguenay River swim, the 24-hour Lac La Tuque relay, and the Trois-Rivières swim.

He also coached several swimmers to victory in the 34K (21-mile) Traversée internationale du Lac St-Jean including Carlos Larriera, Herman Willemse of the Netherlands in 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1964, Horacio Iglesias of Argentina in 1967, 1970, 1971, 1972 and 1973, John Kinsella of the USA from 1974 to 1979, Robert Lachance, Paul Asmuth of the USA, Obert Lachance of Canada in 1982 and 1983, his daughter Christine Cossette of Canada in 1987, 1988 and 1990, and Vicky Keith in 1990.

He also coached Canada's national long distance teams for the World Swimming Championships in Australia in 1991 and Rome in 1994 and presided over Swim Canada's long distance swimming committee.

### **Gus Ryder, Canada (1981)**

Gus Ryder was an innovative coach whose athletes achieved national and international success as marathon swimmers including Marilyn Bell and Cliff Lumsdon. He founded Lakeshore Swimming Club in 1930 and was named Canada's Man of the Year in 1955 and was named to the Order of Canada in 1975 for his work teaching disabled children.

Gus swam in a number of Toronto's across-the-bay long distance races. In 1917, while playing hockey in Toronto, he rescued two players who had fallen through the ice before himself being trapped under the ice. He recalled that this was when he dedicated his life to swimming. Later, he was credited with 47 lifesaving rescues.

### **Greg Steppel, Canada (1996)**

Greg placed second in the World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation rankings. He has won the professional marathon races, the 1995 Pan Pacific 25K Championships, the FINA World Championship Preliminary and the 1994 World Swimming Championships 25K in Italy.

### **Patty Thompson, Canada (1969)**

Patty, a Canadian Olympic swimmer at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, was the 1969 women's World Professional Marathon Swimming Association champion. She won all her professional marathon swims: 16K (10-mile) Hamilton Marathon Swim, 27K (17-mile) Rhode Island Marathon Swim from Narragansett Rhode Island to Block Island, 19K (12-mile) Man and His World Marathon Swim and a 24-hour swim in Santa Fe, Argentina. At age 45 in 1991, Patty became the oldest female to cross Lake Ontario with her time of 19 hours and 18 minutes.

### **Margaret Park Wisniski, Canada (2000)**

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### **Jose Cortinas, Cuba (1967)**

Jose Cortinas completed a 28 hour and 55 minute crossing of the Catalina Channel in 1952.

### **Daniel Eulogio Carpio Massioti “Carpayo”, Peru (2005)**

Daniel participated in the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics, 1932 Los Angeles Olympics, 1936 Berlin Olympics and 1948 London Olympics. Daniel was the first South American to cross the English Channel in 1947 and also crossed in 1951 in the Daily Mail Race in 13 hours and 50 minutes. He crossed the River Plate in 1945, 1977 and 1982 when he was 72 years old. He held national titles in Chile and Argentina. The National Swimming Pool in Lima, Peru is named after him. He was the first person to cross the Strait of Gibraltar in 1948, 1977 and 1988 (when he was 78 years old). In 1947, he was awarded the Order of the Sun as a Great Master by the President of Peru and the Recognition Award by the Peruvian Institute of Sports.

### **Nora Toledano Cadena, Mexico (2006)**

Nora was the first and only Mexican and first Latin American woman and sixth person to complete a double-crossing of the English Channel. She crossed the English Channel six times individually in 1992, 1994, 1997 and 2005, and five times on a relay. She has swam 45K (28 miles) from Akumal to Cozumel in Mexico, 70K (43.4 miles) from Cozumel to Cancun in Mexico, 48K (29.8 miles) around Manhattan Island in New York, USA and won the 3K (1.8 miles) at the 2005 World Masters Games. She coached give Mexican English Channel Swimmers from Mexico and is the co-author with Antonio Argüelles of *Endless Blue*, an open water swimming book. She organized the FINA Marathon Swimming World Cup in Cancun (Mexico) and was nominated in 1994, 1997 and 2005 to receive the National Sports Award in Mexico.

### **Greta Anderson, USA (1964)**

Greta won a gold medal in the 100-meter freestyle and a silver medal in 4 x 100 meter freestyle relay in the 1948 Olympics. She was fourth in 4 x 100 meter freestyle relay and eighth in the 400-meter freestyle at the 1952 Olympics. She held world records from 100 yards in 1949 to 50 miles in 1962, from Chicago to Kenosha, Wisconsin, USA. She won 13 world championships and set 72 amateur swimming records. Greta swam the English Channel five times, winning the famous Butlin English Channel Race twice in 1957 and 1958 in 10 hours and 59 minutes, and winning the women’s event from 1957 to 1959. She completed a double-crossing of the English Channel and was the first person to complete a double-crossing of the Catalina Channel in 1958 in 26 hours and 53 minutes.

She was the first women in the 1956 16K (10-mile) Salton Sea marathon swim in the California, USA desert, a 24K (15-mile) Huntington Beach-to-Long Beach swim in 1957, a 42K (26-mile) swim in Guaymas, Mexico that took her 12 hours in 1957, the 36K (22.5-mile) Around the Island Swim in Atlantic City, USA in 12 hours and 36 minutes in 1957, the 24K (15-mile) Owen Sound Marathon in Canada in 6 hours and 15 minutes in 1957, the Around the Island Swim in Atlantic City, USA in 1958, in 1959 in 11 hours and 7 minutes and 1963 the 30.5K (19-mile) Traversée internationale du Lac Memphrémagog in 1958 in Canada.

Greta won the 42K (26-mile) professional marathon swim in Guaymas, Mexico in 1958 and did an 11 hour and 7 minute single-crossing of the Catalina Channel in 1958. She also won the

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80.4K (50-mile) World Long Distance Open Water Swimming Championship in 1962 in Lake Michigan. She truly earned her title of the “World’s Greatest Female Swimmer.”

### **Paul Asmuth, USA (1982)**

Paul won seven World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation titles between 1980 and 1985 and in 1988. He finished an incredible 59 professional marathon swimming races. He won six 42K (26-mile) Traversée internationale du Lac Memphrémagog in Canada and was named Athlete of the Decade (1990’s) by the *Atlantic City Press* (New Jersey, USA).

Paul won the 36K (22.5-mile) Around the Island Swim in Atlantic City, USA an unprecedented eight times in water ranging between the high 50°F’s to the low 80°F’s. He won the 34K (21-mile) Traversée internationale du Lac St-Jean professional race from 1980–1984 in Canada, the 64K (40-mile) race from 1985 to 1989 and the 40K (25-mile) race from 1990 to 1992. He set a record of 17 hours and 6 minutes in 1989 in the 64K (40-mile) Traversée internationale du Lac St-Jean race in Canada. He won the professional 32K (20-mile) Maratona del Golfo - Capri Napoli in Italy three times and set the course record of 6 hours and 35 minutes. He was a 4-time winner of the 27K (17-mile) Les Quatorze swim in 50°F water and set the record of 5 hours and 35 minutes in 1981. His solo swims include three English Channel crossings including setting the men’s record, the 50K (31-mile) Nantucket-to-Cape Cod (the only person to swim the course) and the first person to circumnavigate the 45K (28-mile) Manhattan Island circumnavigation in under seven hours.

### **David Alleva, USA (1992)**

David was a professional marathon swimmer in the 1990’s who finished second in the 40K (25-mile) Traversée internationale du lac St-Jean in 10 hours and 19 minutes in 1991 and in 10 hours and 28 minutes in the 1993 Traversée internationale du lac St-Jean race. He was third in the 57K (36-mile) Santa Fe-Coronda river swim in Argentina in 7 hours and 9 minutes in 1990.

### **Tina Bischoff, USA (1983)**

Tina swam the English Channel in 1976 in 9 hours and 3 minutes, only seven minutes slower than the fastest crossing of that year.

### **Dr. Harry H. Briggs, USA (1997)**

Dr. Briggs was the first to swim from Corsica to Sardinia in 1955 and was the first to complete a swim across Lake Erie from Sandusky, Ohio, USA to Point Pelee, Ontario, Canada in 1957. He became the first person to swim 58K (36 miles) across Lake Winnepisauewee in New Hampshire, USA. Dr. Briggs completed 43 marathon swims. At the age of 76, he swam 16K (10 miles) across Lake Sunapee as a fundraiser.

### **Sid Cassidy, USA (2005)**

As a swimmer, Sid was ranked fourth as a professional marathon swimmer in 1979. He swam several 36K (22.5-mile) Around-the-Island Marathon Swims in Atlantic City, USA and competed in professional marathon races in Chicago, Canada and Egypt. He both coached and swam on a record-setting double-crossing of the English Channel by the USA Swimming National Team in 1990.

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He served as the USA Swimming National Open Water Coach for five years, was race director for six international marathon swims and the FINA Open Water World Cup events at Atlantic City, USA.

Sid's greatest influence in the sport has been achieved as a result of his work as chairman of the FINA Technical Open Water Swimming Committee where he has oversight of the FINA 10K Marathon Swimming World Cup circuit, the FINA Open Water Swimming Grand Prix series and the FINA World Open Water Swimming Championships. Under his leadership, marathon swimming was added to the Olympic program at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and 2012 London Olympics. He was the official starter of the first Olympic 10K Marathon Swim at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and has helped standardize and professionalize the judging and staging of marathon swims around the world.

### **Florence Chadwick, USA (1966)**

Florence was a typist and swimming coach from California. At 32 years old, she became the first woman to swim from England to France in 1951. It is reported that she swam from Cap Gris Nez, France to South Foreland, England in 1950. Her three England-to-France swims each set a record for the fastest time, including her 16 hour and 22 minutes crossing in 1951, her 1953 crossing and her 13 hours and 55 minute crossing in October, 1955. On her last three successful swims she also attempted a double-crossing, but gave up on the return leg on each occasion. In 1952, she also successfully crossed the Catalina Channel in 13 hours and 45 minutes.

### **David Stevens Clark, USA (2004)**

As a swimmer, coach, paddler, or Catalina Channel Swimming Federation observer, David took part in over half of all Catalina Channel swims between 1984 and 2004.

David swam the English Channel in 1988 and has coached four other English Channel swimmers and six Catalina Channel swimmers and many other swimmers attempting marathon swims all over the world. He has advised and assisted many other open water swimmers with all aspects of their preparation for marathon swims, including training, mental preparation, nutrition, safety, navigation, pilot boats and assembling a support crew.

David teaches workshops on escorting open water swimmers, including presentations at the USA Swimming Open Water Training Camp. His technical innovations include feeding systems, the introduction of kayaks for escorting swimmers, and the development of navigation tools and training materials for the Catalina Channel Swimming Federation.

### **James "Doc" Counsilman, USA (1981)**

Doc was the world-renowned coach from the University of Indiana who became the oldest man to cross the English Channel in 1979. His well-documented effort made headlines and brought marathon swimming to the attention of the entire world.

### **Lynne Cox, USA (1982)**

In 1971, at age 14 Lynne swam across the Catalina Channel in 12 hours and 36 minutes. In 1972, she swam across the English Channel, setting a men's and women's records in 9 hours and 57 minutes. In 1973, she re-set the English Channel records in 9 hours and 36 minutes. In 1974,

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she broke the men's and women's records across the Catalina Channel in 8 hours and 48 minutes. In 1975, she became the first woman to swim across the Cook Strait between the North and South Islands of New Zealand in 12 hours and 2 minutes. In 1976, she broke the men's and women's record for swimming the Oresund between Denmark and Sweden in 5 hours and 9 minutes. She broke the men's and women's record for swimming across the Kattegat between Norway to Sweden in a time of 6 hours and 16 minutes. In 1976, she became the first person to swim across the 42°F waters of the Strait of Magellan in 1 hour and 2 minutes. In 1977, she became the first person to swim between three of the Aleutian Islands and the first person to swim 12.8K (8 miles) around the Cape of Good Hope in a time of 3 hours and 3 minutes. In 1980, she swam around Joga-shima Island in Japan. In 1983, she swam across the three Lakes of New Zealand's Southern Alps. In 1984, she swam across 12 major waterways across the U.S. In 1985, she swam 'Around the World in 80 Days' by swimming 12 extremely challenging waterways some that had never been attempted. In 1987, she became the first person to swim across the Bering Strait between the Big Diomedede Island and the Little Diomedede Island in 40°F water in 2 hours and 6 minutes. In 1988, she became the first person to swim across Lake Baikal. In 1990, she completed an unprecedented crossing of the Beagle Channel between Argentina and Chile. In 1990, she swam across the Spree River between the newly united German Republics. In 1992, Lynne became the first person to swim across Lake Titicaca from Bolivia to Peru. In 1994, she swam through the Gulf of Aqaba from Egypt to Israel and from Israel to Jordan. In 2002, she became the first person to swim 1.9K (1.2 miles) in Antarctica from a ship to Neko Harbor in a time of 25 minutes in 31°F water.

### **William Forest "Buck" Dawson, USA (1993)**

As executive director of the International Swimming Hall of Fame, Buck made major efforts to include open water swimming as integral part of the Hall of Fame through displays and written materials maintained in the museum's library. Buck, known as "Mr. Swimming Hall of Fame", supported the AAU and United States Swimming Long Distance Swimming Programs. Buck wrote the Hall's charter and helped grow the Hall from an idea to a shoebox collection and, ultimately, a million dollar operation as the world's showcase and archives of swimming.

His swimming camps also served as training camps for the United States Swimming Open Water National Teams and individuals training for English Channel and other marathon swim endeavors. Buck founded the annual Fort Lauderdale Rough Water Swim, formerly known as the International Swimming Hall of Fame Ocean Mile, and the Galt Ocean Mile Swims.

Buck was the first president of the International Sports Heritage Association, now a 136-member organization of Sports Halls of Fame which he founded under the name of International Association of Sports Museums and Halls of Fame. Under Buck's leadership, the International Swimming Hall of Fame became the world's first international Hall of Fame when it was recognized by the 96-member FINA Congress in 1968.

Buck was also a writer whose books included *A Civil War Artist From the Front*, *When the Earth Explodes*, *Michigan Ensign*, *All About Dryland Exercises For Swimmers*, *Weissmuller to Spitz—An Era to Remember*, *Age Group Swimming and Diving For Teacher and Pupil*, *Million Dollar Mermaids—America's Love Affair With Its First Women Swimmers*, *Gold Medal Pools*, *We Don't Sew Beads on Belts* and *Stand Up and Hook Up*.

## Open Water Swimming Heroes from the Americas

Buck was honored as an inductee in International Swimming Hall of Fame following retirement in 1986.

### **Penny Lee Dean, USA (1980)**

Penny set the overall English Channel record of 7 hours and 40 minutes in 1978 which stood until 1995 when one of her own swimmers broke it. Penny also set records in the Catalina Channel, from the mainland to Catalina in 7 hours and 16 minutes in 1976, and from Catalina to the mainland in 8 hours and 33 minutes in 1977 on her way to a 80.4K (50-mile) double-crossing in 20 hours and 3 minutes.

She was the 1979 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation's women's champion winning in the 42K (26-mile) Traversée internationale du Lac Memphrémagog in Canada, the 36K (22.5-mile) Around-the-Island Swim in Atlantic City, USA, the 34K (21-mile) Traversée internationale du Lac St-Jean in Canada, the 24-hour La Tuque relay in Canada and the Paspébiac marathon swim in Canada.

She was a founding member of the Catalina Channel Swimming Federation and served as the USA Swimming National Open Water Team Coach for eight years, taking teams to the 1991 Pan Pacific Championships, 1991 World Swimming Championships, 1982 and 1990 Windermere Championships, 1990 English Channel Race, 1984 and 1989 Catalina Channel Race and coach of nine solo Catalina Channel swimmers. She was president of the College Swimming Coaches Association of America from 1985 to 1987 and served on the NCAA Swimming Committee.

She has presented numerous international clinics on marathon and open water swimming, written articles for swimming publications and authored *How to Swim a Marathon* with printings in 1985, 1988 and 1992, *Open Water Swimming*, a how-to manual, and *History of the Catalina Swims* in 1985. She was the meet director for the US Swimming Open Water 1984 International Invitational held in California and authored two books on open water swimming: and *The History of the Catalina Swims*. Penny is also an honoree of the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

### **James Doty, USA (2002)**

Jim swam across or the length of most New Hampshire lakes and swam on the professional circuit in World Professional Marathon Swimming Association races in Chicago, La Tuque, Chicoutimi and Rhode Island, along with two English Channel attempts. He established the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame Davids-Wheeler Award in 1968, started the Boston Light Swim in 1978 and founded the New England Marathon Swimming Association in 1978 as a charity organization to study water conditions, water safety and promote swimming.

### **Robert Dowling, USA (1970)**

Robert became the first person to swim the circumference of Manhattan Island in 1915 in 13 hours and 45 minutes. In 1917, he competed in a 64K (40-mile) upstream river swim in the Hudson River, USA. A few years later, as a Navy officer during World War I, Dowling proposed that swimmers set two mines into enemy harbors.

## **Open Water Swimming Heroes from the Americas**

### **Gertrude Ederle, USA (1963)**

Gertrude was once the world's most celebrated woman for becoming the first woman to swim the English Channel in 14 hours and 31 minutes in 1926. When Gertrude returned to New York City, an estimated two million New Yorkers lined the sidewalks on August 27, 1926, to heap their applause and tons of confetti on her. She toured America after her Channel record, demonstrating her freestyle in a specially built swimming tank and made cameo appearances at Billy Rose's Aquacade at the New York World's Fair in 1939.

At the 1924 Paris Olympic, she won a gold medal as the leadoff swimmer on the United States 4x100 meter freestyle relay to set a world record and added bronze medals in the 100- and 400 meter freestyle races. She set 29 world and American records, at distances from 100 to 500 meters before she tried to cross the English Channel in 1925 when she was disqualified when a support team member grabbed her arm to assist.

In her 1926 record swim from France to England, Gertrude wore a revolutionary two-piece bathing suit and personally designed wrap-around goggles, which were kept watertight with molten candle wax.

### **Jon Erikson, USA (1981)**

Jon swam the English Channel from France to England in 1969 as the youngest swimmer and did a double-crossing in 1979 with his first leg as the fastest crossing of the year. He did two English-to-France crossings in 1980 and became the first person to do a triple crossing in 1981 with a historic 38 hour and 27 minute effort. Jon also did many professional marathon swims in Canada, Mexico and Argentina.

### **Ted Erikson, USA (1978)**

Ted started marathon swimming at the age of 33 in 1961 when he became the first person to swim across Lake Michigan in the USA. He swam from England to France in 12 hours and 25 minutes in 1964. His career peaked in 1965 with a record double crossing of the English Channel in 30 hours and 3 minutes on his third attempt. His record stood for 10 years until it was broken by his, Jon. Ted still holds the record for swimming 50.6K (31.5 miles) in 14 hours and 35 minutes from the Farallon Islands to the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, USA across frigid shark-infested waters in 1967.

He participated in eight professional marathon swims in Lake Michigan USA, Atlantic City, USA, the La Tuque 24-hour relay with Dennis Matuch in Canada and the Traversée Internationale du Lac Memphrémagog in Canada. His Lake Michigan swims included a 59K (36.75-mile) swim from Chicago, Illinois to Michigan City, Indiana, USA in 36 hours and 37 minutes, a 80.4K (50-mile) swim from Chicago to Kenosha, Wisconsin, USA in 35 hours and 37 minutes in 1962, and a 96.5K (60-mile) swim from Chicago to St. Joseph, Michigan, USA in 37 hours and 25 minutes in 1963.

He also guided four protégés across the English Channel, did a 19K (12-mile) Chain o' Lakes swim from Winter Haven, Florida to Cypress Gardens in 1961 and a 64K (40-mile) pool swim (of 3,520 lengths) at Illinois Athletic Club in Chicago in 1963 in 22 hours and 17 minutes.

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### **Benjamin Franklin, USA (1983)**

Benjamin was one of the Founding Fathers of the United States of America and was a leading author, printer, satirist, political theorist, politician, scientist, diplomat and statesman of his era. He was credited with the invention of wooden hand paddles and was an avid swimmer all his life, as an early proponent of physical fitness.

### **Joe Grossman, USA (1979)**

Joe was involved in all aspects of marathon swimming administration, organization and promotion and is considered the Founding Father of the modern era of marathon swimming. He was instrumental in the formation of the World Professional Marathon Swimming Association and served as its secretary. Joe traveled worldwide as a public information officer and took these opportunities to promote marathon swimming and to lay the foundation to unify marathon swimming programs. He worked tirelessly to increase the prize money for the swimmers and to develop an equitable distribution of the available money.

### **Ashby "Bud" Harper, USA (1984)**

In 1982, Bud became the oldest swimmer to swim the English Channel in 12 hours and 52 minutes at 65 years and 332 days. He also swam the Santa Barbara Channel in 1984 and around 48K (28.5 mile) Manhattan Island Marathon Swim in 1983 (9 hours and 3 minutes), 1990 (8 hours and 57 minutes) and in 1991 (9 hours and 24 minutes).

### **Tom Hetzel, USA (1980)**

From 1968 to 1972, Tom was an internationally ranked marathon swimmer and swam the English Channel eight times as a solo swimmer and captained six relay crossings that set three new records. He swam the 34K (21-mile) Traversée internationale du Lac St-Jean professional race in Canada, the 32K (20-mile) Aswan High Dam, 48.2K (30 miles) in Baja California, 48.2K (30 miles) from Point Lookout in New York, twelve Manhattan Island Marathon Swims and coached Doc Counsilman on his English Channel swim.

### **Chad Hundebly, USA (1996)**

Chad won the 1991 world 25K championships and set the record for the English Channel in 7 hours and 17 minutes that had stood since 1978. Chad was honored as the Open Water Swimmer of the Year by the USA Swimming in 1991, 1993 and 1994. He also won numerous marathon swims around the world and also set a Catalina Channel record in 1993 in 8 hours and 14 minutes.

### **Captain Tim Johnson, USA (2006)**

Captain Johnson made major contributions for the support elements in marathon swimming, including the development of unprecedented computer applications that modeled swims allowing analysis of currents and tides. He was one of the founders of the Manhattan Island Swimming Association and was the organization's historian. His advice on current and tides set the standards and were partly responsible for the record swims around Manhattan Island. Tim has authored the comprehensive and informative *History of Open Water Marathon Swimming*.

### **Peter Jurzynski, USA (2005)**

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Peter made 17 attempts at the English Channel with 13 successes with plans to attempt once per year for as long as he is able to make an honest attempt. He has also swum the Boston Harbor swim numerous times.

### **Marian Cassidy Keen, USA (1997)**

During her five years on the professional circuit, Marian never finished lower than third and won several major championships. In 1992, she finished a second to Shelley Taylor-Smith in the overall world rankings and set the record at the 32K (20-mile) Maratona del Golfo - Capri Napoli Swim. In 1990, she was appointed as a USA Swimming Open Water National Team Coach and developed many excellent marathon swimmers. She escorted several swimmers at the World Championships and other major events.

### **James Kegley, USA (1991)**

James was a prominent professional marathon swimmer in the 1980's. He won the 1980 La Tuque 24-hour Marathon with Paul Asmuth and placed in the top three at the 35.4K (22-mile) Sydney Harbor Marathon Swim, 35.4K (22-mile) Around-the-Island Marathon Swim in Atlantic City, USA, the 32K (20-mile) Traversée internationale du Lac Memphrémagog in 7 hours and 11 minutes in 1980 in Canada and other marathon swims in Argentina, Italy and Italy. He won the 57K (36-mile) Santa Fe-Coronda river swim in Argentina in 7 hours and 59 minutes in 1987.

### **Jerry Kerschner, USA (1978)**

### **John Kinsella, USA (1978)**

John completely dominated the professional marathon swimming circuit in the 1970's after winning a silver medal in the 1500-meter freestyle at the 1968 Olympics and a gold medal in the 800-meter freestyle relay. He started the decade by winning the Amateur Athletic Union's James E. Sullivan Award for America's outstanding amateur athlete and ended the decade by winning a professional English Channel race in 1979. He won every major professional marathon swimming race he entered, including the 32K (20-mile) Traversée internationale du Lac St-Jean professional race in 7 hours and 54 minutes in 1974, in 7 hours and 36 minutes in 1975, in 7 hours and 18 minutes in 1976, in 7 hours and 32 minutes in 1977, in 7 hours and 13 minutes in 1978 and in 7 hours and 1 minute in 1979. For his pool swimming prowess, he was also inducted in the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

### **Marcella A. MacDonald, PDM, USA (2005)**

Marcy has done eight successful English Channel crossings and is the only American woman to have completed a double-crossing of the English Channel (both in 2001 and 2004). She was booked for a triple-crossing in 2004, but was forced to retire after completing another double-crossing (11 hours and 14 minutes on the first leg and 11 hours and 46 minutes on the second leg). She also participated in a double-crossing English Channel relay in 2003.

In the USA, she completed in the Swim Across the Sound and the Manhattan Island Marathon Swim in New York, the Boston Harbor Swim and the Egg Rock Scramble in Massachusetts, the Candlewood Lake swim in Connecticut.

### **Dennis Matuch, USA (1977)**

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In 1962, Dennis won the 59K (36.75-mile) Lake Michigan swim from Chicago to Waukegan, Illinois, USA in 21 hours. In the La Tuque 24-hour Marathon Swim in Canada, he was often sought as a partner in the two-person relay, swimming with Ted Erikson, Jon Erikson, Abou Heif and Diana Nyad. In 1963, Dennis broke the established world best time for a 40K (25-mile) pool swim in a time of 12 hours and 50 minutes. He competed in the 37K (23-mile) Descente ou remontée du Saguenay race in 1966, 1967, 1968 and 1969.

Dennis is also a leader in the administration and organization of marathon swimming. He became president of the World Professional Marathon Swimming Association and was one of the founders and chairman of the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame.

He coached Penny Dean to become the women's world marathon swimming champion on her first year on the professional circuit.

### **Jim Moran, USA (1985)**

Jim is also an International Swimming Hall of Fame Gold Medallion Recipient in 1995. As an entrepreneur, he established the largest Ford dealership in the world and sponsored the Jim Moran Lake Michigan Swim for seven years in Chicago, USA in the 1960's that attracted the best professional marathon swimmers from around the world. Prize money ranged up to US\$25,000 and local television and radio stations provided hourly updates on the swimmers' progress.

In the late 1990's, Jim established the Moran Learn to Swim Endowment Fund at the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

### **Eva Morrison, USA (1973)**

Eva completed her first 8K (5-mile) swim at the age of 10 in 1918 and was a prominent marathon swimmer in the 1920's. She swam 19.3K (12 miles) from Boston Light Swim more than 20 times and was training to swim the English Channel at the same time as Gertrude Ederle. She won the 1935 Dover Trophy in 15 hours and 55 minutes for a 28.9K (18-mile) swim from Folkestone to Margate in the U.K. She served on the initial Board of Governors for the International Professional Swimmers' Association when it formed in 1927.

### **Steven Munatones, USA (2002)**

Steven completed five unprecedented swims in Japan. In 1989, he swam 42K (26 miles) across Lake Biwa, Japan's largest lake in 10 hours and 36 minutes. In 1990, he completed the first double-crossing of the 19.5K (12-mile) Tsugaru Channel from Honshu to Hokkaido in 6 hours and 11 minute and 6 hours and 41 minutes back from Hokkaido to Honshu. 1992, he swam across the Five Lakes of Mount Fuji, Japan in 5 hours and 40 minutes, running and biking between each lake. In 1993, he swam 37K (22.9 miles) between Ishigaki Island, Iriomote Island and Taketomi Island in Okinawa, Japan in 10 hours and 16 minutes. In In 1994, Steve swam 29K (18 miles) around the hammerhead shark mecca of Yonaguni Island in Okinawa, Japan in 7 hours and 8 minutes.

He also swam the 36K (22.5-mile) Around-the-Island Swim in Atlantic City, USA in 1985, the 42K (26-mile) Traversée Internationale du Lac Memphrémagog in Canada in 1984 and 1985, the

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34K (21-mile) Traversée internationale du lac St-Jean in Canada in 1984, the 38.6K (24-mile) Los Cabos Marathon Swim in Mexico in 1984 and the 45.8K (28.5-mile) Manhattan Island Marathon Swim in 1984. He won the 25K (16-mile) International Long-Distance Swimming Championships in Lake Windermere, England in 1982 and two USA National 10-mile championships in 1982 and 1991.

He also coached several USA Swimming national open water swimming teams, wrote the Open Water Swimming Dictionary and was the NBC Olympics commentator for the first Olympic 10K Marathon Swim at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

### **Keo Nakama, USA (1967)**

Keo was the first person to swim from the island of Molokai to Oahu in Hawaii. He crossed the 43.4K (27-mile) Kaiwi Channel in 1961 in 15 hours and 30 minutes.

As a pool swimmer, Keo is honored in the International Swimming Hall of Fame for his 5 gold medals in the 1940 Pan American Swimming Championships, his 27 USA national swimming titles from 110 yards to 1500 meters, his six Australian National Championships and his world record in the mile and for captaining the two NCAA Men's Swimming Championship teams at Ohio State where he also played baseball.

### **Paul E. "Jerry" Nason, USA (1974)**

Jerry retired as the Executive Sports Editor of the *Boston Globe*. He loved all sports, especially those involving endurance and did much to support marathon swimming in New England. He promoted the efforts of Jim Doty, Ralph Willard and the New England Marathon Association. His writing told the story of the technical aspects of the marathon swimming and the inner drive needed by the swimmer to complete the course. His reports on the annual swim from the Boston Light House to the L Street Bathhouse and other marathon swims gave the impression of being on the swimmer's escort craft and observing the swim stroke-by-stroke.

### **Marvin "Duke" Nelson, USA (1979)**

Duke swam in the Des Moines River in warm and cold water and weather and specialized in swimming 24K (15 miles) in frigid, choppy lake waters. In 1930, he won his first world championship title defeating a field of 173 at the Canadian National Exhibition Marathon Swim in Toronto in 7 hours and 44 minutes, winning US\$10,000 and won again in 1934. He also won the 24K (15-mile) Lake Michigan swim in Chicago twice, finishing a half-mile ahead of the pack in 1934.

Incredibly considering America was in the midst of its Great Depression, Duke's five professional victories earned him US\$30,000.

Confident in his abilities, Duke bet that he would complete the first double-crossing of the English Channel and raised US\$25,000 against 50-to-1 odds that he could accomplish his goal. But he never was able to achieve his goal due to the outbreak of World War II.

### **Martha Norelius, USA (1984)**

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Martha was inducted in the International Swimming Hall of Fame for winning a gold medal in the 400-meter freestyle at the 1924 Olympics and two gold medals in the 1928 Olympics. She was suspended from amateur competition in 1929 for giving an exhibition in the same pool with professional swimmers, so she turned professional and won US\$10,000 in the 16K (10-mile) Wrigley Marathon in Toronto.

### **Diana Nyad, USA (1978)**

Diane swam around the world for ten years, swimming 40K (25-mile) in the Suez Canal in Egypt, 35.4K (22-mile) in the Nile River, 51.4K (32-mile) along the Mexican coast, 41.8K (26-mile) in the Parana River in Argentina, 32K (20-mile) in the Maratona del Golfo - Capri Napoli in Italy, 49.8K (31-mile) from St. Thomas to Virgin Gorda in the Caribbean, 80.4K (50-mile) along the Great Barrier Reef in Australia and 51.4K (32-mile) in Lake Ontario.

The Lake Ontario swim was the first time a swimmer swam north to south from Toronto to New York as it was against the currents of the Niagara River. In 1975, she swam around Manhattan Island in New York to break a 50-year-old record. In 1972, she became the first person to swim 165K (102.5 miles) from the Bahamas to Florida (North Bimini to Juno Beach). She attempted to swim from Cuba to Florida in 1978, but withdrew after 42 hours and 160K (99.7 miles).

Diana has written three books including *Other Shores* on her experiences in marathon swimming.

### **Tom Park, USA (1968)**

Tom won the 45K (28-mile) Saguenay River swim in 1964 in 9 hours and 18 minutes and several other professional marathon swims. He won the first 36K (22.5-mile) Around-the-Island Marathon Swim in Atlantic City, USA in 1954. He won the race again in 1955, but lost by two seconds to Canadian Cliff Lumsdon in 1956. Tom and Cliff vied for the top spot for the rest of the decade, usually finishing within a few minutes of each other. In the 1960 edition, they tied for second in ten hours, forty minutes and seven seconds.

### **Dale Petranec, USA (1995)**

In 1977, Dale became the first U.S. Swimming Open Water Swimming Committee Chairman and developed a successful domestic and international program. He assisted U.S. Masters Swimming to form its own independent organization. He was chairman of the FINA Open Water Swimming Commission that made recommendations to FINA for inclusion of Open Water Swimming into their organization and eventually served as Honorary Secretary of the FINA Technical Open Water Swimming Committee.

He assisted in writing the FINA Open Water Swimming Rules and served as a FINA Open Water Official at several World Championships and World Cup events. He escorted American swimmers at two FINA World Cups.

In 1985, he became the oldest swimmer to swim across the Catalina Channel and also swam around Manhattan Island. He has served as the Secretary of the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame and has promoted the induction of the finest marathon swimmers in the world into the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

## **Open Water Swimming Heroes from the Americas**

### **Karen Burton Reeder, USA (1999)**

Karen won 6 USA Swimming national championships, including three 15K (9.3-mile) races and one 25K (15.5-mile) race, and a bronze medal in the FINA World Swimming Championship 25K (15.5 miles) in 1991. She won a FINA World Cup race in Lac St-Jean in Canada in 1992, and was a two-time world professional marathon swimming champion in 1996 and 1997. She set the record for the Catalina in 7 hours and 43 minutes in 1994 and swam the English Channel in 9 hours and 4 minutes in 1993. She was on USA Swimming National Team on its record-setting English Channel relay of 6 hours and 52 minutes in 1990. She also served as the USA Swimming Open Water Swimming Coordinator for four years.

### **Julie Ridge, USA (1985)**

Julie became the first person to complete a double circumnavigation around Manhattan Island in New York City, USA in 21 hours in 1983 and swam the English Channel in 17 hours and 55 minutes in 1982.

### **Norman Ross, USA (1984)**

Norman won 3 gold medals in the 1920 Antwerp Olympics and set 13 world records and won 18 U.S. national championships. For these exploits, he was honored by the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 1967.

Known as “Big Moose”, Norman also entered the 1927 Wrigley Ocean Marathon from Catalina Island to the California mainland and the 33.7K (21-mile) Canadian National Exhibition races in 1927 and 1928.

### **Charlotte “Lottie” Schoemmel, USA (1968)**

In 1926, Lottie swam 251K (156 miles) down the Hudson River in New York, USA in 57 hours and 11 minutes over an 11-day period, eating lumps of sugar soaked in whiskey while in the water. She also swam around Manhattan Island in New York in 14 hours and 21 minutes in 1926 and nearly finished the 1927 Wrigley Ocean Marathon from Catalina Island to the California mainland, USA.

### **Charles “Red” Silva, USA (1978)**

Red trained several New England-based marathon swimmers for English Channel attempts and was instrumental in organizing many local marathon swims. Charles is also an Honor Contributor to the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 1976 for having coached more than 200 All-America swimmers and an Olympic gold medal winner and served as its chairman of its board of directors.

### **Carol Sing, USA (2000)**

55-year-old Carol became the oldest woman in history to swim the Catalina Channel when she crossed in 10 hours and 38 minutes in 1997. She also completed the 48K (28.5-mile) Manhattan Island Marathon Swim in 8 hours and 46 minutes in 1998 and in 9 hours and 16 minutes in 2001.

### **Marty Sinn, USA (1963)**

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Marty finished second overall in the 24K (15-mile) Canadian National Exposition in Lake Ontario in 1963 and was the first woman in the 36K (22.5-mile) Around the Island Swim in Atlantic City, USA in 1964. She also swam a professional marathon swim in the Suez Canal in Egypt.

### **John Sigmund, USA (1965)**

John swam 470K (292 miles) down the Mississippi River from St. Louis to Caruthersville, Missouri, USA in 89 hours and 46 minutes in 1940.

### **David Smith, USA (1969)**

David swam across San Francisco Bay under the Golden Gate Bridge, 48K (30 miles) down the Russian River and 101K (63) miles down the Sacramento River, both in California. In 1966, he swam the Strait of Gibraltar from Morocco to Spain, the Hellespont, Bosphorus (Istanbul Strait) and competed in professional marathon swims in Italy, Yugoslavia and Egypt. In 1967, he was the first person to swim from Morocco to The Rock of Gibraltar.

### **Skip Storch, USA (2009)**

Skip was nominated for the 2008 ESPY Awards as the Best Outdoor Athlete due to his triple circumnavigation of Manhattan Island in 32 hours 52 minutes. Skip has also done the 48K (28.5-mile) Manhattan Island Marathon Swim, a 32K (20-mile) swim in the Hudson River, a 246K (153-mile) staged swim from Albany to New York City, a 24K (15-mile) swim along the length of the East River through Hell's Gate, and a 41 hour and 30 minute staged swim in the Hudson River to the Albany Yacht Club to Pier A Battery Park in New York City.

### **Henry Sullivan, USA (1968)**

Henry became the third person to swim the English Channel on his seventh attempt in 1923 in 26 hours and 50 minutes which remains the longest one-way channel swim on record. He is reported to have made six other English Channel attempts between 1913 and 1921, but they were all unsuccessful. In 1927 he successfully crossed the Catalina Channel in 22 hours and 45 minutes.

### **Stella Taylor, USA (1982)**

In 1973 and 1975, Stella successfully crossed the English Channel. In 1975, she became the oldest woman to have swum the English Channel at 45 years and 349 days of age.

### **Bert Thomas, USA (1969)**

Bert was the first person to cross the 29K (18-mile) Juan de Fuca Strait between Vancouver Island in Canada and the American state of Washington in 11 hours and 17 minutes in 1955 on his fifth attempt in 8.8°C (48°F) water.

### **James Toomey, USA (1971)**

James conceived the idea of the 36K (22.5-mile) Around the Island Swim in Atlantic City, USA in 1953 and served as its race director until 1964.

### **James Whelan, USA (2001)**

## **Open Water Swimming Heroes from the Americas**

James received the prestigious International Swimming Hall Gold Medallion for his efforts to re-establish the 36K (22.5-mile) Around-the-Island Marathon Swim in Atlantic City, USA. As the Mayor of Atlantic City, he also rowed and acted as coach for several swimmers including Claudio Plit and Samantha Chabotar.

### **Johnny Weissmuller, USA (1970)**

Johnny was a five-time Olympic champion at the 1924 and 1928 Olympics and was undefeated in freestyle between 1921 and 1929 with his longest swim being the 3.2K (2 miles) Chicago River Race. In 1970, Johnny accepted an assignment as the International Commissioner of Marathon Swimming and represented the sport of marathon swimming and the World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation.

### **Conrad Wennerberg, USA (1977)**

Conrad is best known for his authoritative book, *Wind, Waves and Sunburn: A Brief History of Marathon Swimming* that is considered to be the most definitive work on marathon swimming. He swam over 12,874K (8,000 miles) while training with his athletes, including Ted Erickson and Dennis Matuch.

He amassed the largest file on marathon swimming in existence and shared the information with the World Professional Swimming Federation and the International Swimming Hall of Fame. He was influential in creating the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame.

### **Ralph Willard, USA (1981)**

Ralph completed the 37K (23-mile) la Descente ou remontée du Saguenay in 8 hours and 40 minutes in 1963, in 13 hours and 10 minutes in 1964, in 8 hours and 25 minutes in 1966, and 8 hours and 24 minutes in 1967 despite being 30 years older than many of his professional competitors.

### **Steve Wozniak, USA (1979)**

Steve enjoyed a 50-year marathon swimming career. In 1937, he won the USA National five-mile championship. In 1957, he won the five- and ten-mile events at the Canadian National Exposition, the 54K (32-mile) Nile River Swim in 1956 and in the 88K (55-mile) Parana River swim in Argentina in 1961. He finished third in several 36K (22.5-mile) Around-the-Island Marathon Swims in Atlantic City, USA. He died at the age of 71 while planning for his final English Channel attempt.

### **William Wrigley, Jr., USA (1964)**

William, the chewing gum magnate, was the founder and sponsor of the first Wrigley Ocean Marathon across the Catalina Channel in January 1927 where he offered a \$25,000 winner-take-all prize. 102 swimmers started the race, but only Canadian George Young finished and claimed the winner's purse. He also sponsored the 1927 Canadian National Exhibition race in Toronto with a \$30,000 purse.

### **John York, USA (1989)**

John has the most successful crossings of the Catalina Channel, completing swims in 1976, 1977, 1978 and 1984, including the fastest double-crossing of 16 hours and 42 minutes in 1978.

## **Open Water Swimming Heroes from the Americas**

He swam the English Channel in 1988 and has coached numerous swimmers across the Catalina Channel, including USA National Team swimmers, as well as run the Catalina Channel Swimming Federation for many years.

### **David Yudovin, USA (1999)**

David competed 14 solo swims including three swims across the Catalina Channel in 11 hours and 51 minutes in 1976, in 13 hours and 45 minutes in 1986, in 11 hours and 49 minutes in 1993, and in 10 hours and 46 minutes in 1995, between North Coronado Island to the Mexican coast in 6 hours and 22 minutes in 1984, from South Coronado Island to the Mexican coast in 4 hours and 6 minutes in 1991, from North Coronado Island to the Mexican coast in 7 hours and 45 minutes in 1991, from the South Coronado Island to the Mexican coast in 4 hours and 20 minutes in 1992 (repeated in 4 hours and 25 minutes again in 1992 and in 4 hours and 15 minutes in 1993), the third person to swim across the Strait of Gibraltar from Morocco to Spain in 9 hours and 27 minutes, the English Channel in 13 hours and 37 minutes in 1986, the Santa Barbara Channel between Anacapa Island and the California mainland in 8 hours and 27 minutes in 8 hours and 27 minutes in 1982, 16K (10 miles) from Lanai Island to Maui in Hawaii, USA in 4 hours and 47 minutes in 2002, from Molokini Island to Maui, Hawaii, USA in 2 hours and 6 minutes in 2002 (and again in 2003 in 2 hours and 16 minutes), from Maui to Molokai in Hawaii, USA in 4 hours and 41 minutes, 8 miles from Maui to Kahoolawe Island in Hawaii, USA in 4 hours and 18 minutes, 16K (10 miles) from Molokai to Lanai in Hawaii, USA in 5 hours and 11 minutes in 2003, and across the 25K (16-mile) Cook Strait from North Island to South Island in New Zealand in 9 hours and 38 minutes in 2004.

David was the first swimmer to swim 30K from Santa Cruz Island to the California coast in 15 hours and 15 minutes in 1983, 30K across the Tsugaru Channel in 11 hours and 54 minutes in 1990, from Bali to Java in Indonesia in 1 hour and 36 minutes in 1996, from Nusa Penida to Bali in Indonesia in 2 hours and 48 minutes in 1997, across the Sunda Strait from Java to Sumatra, Indonesia in 10 hours and 34 minutes in 2000, and from Cape Wiwiki to Cape Brett in the Bay of Islands, New Zealand in 5 hours and 23 minutes in 2004.

### **Charles Zibleman, USA (1966)**

Charles, who did not have legs, completed a 233K (145-mile) staged swim down the Hudson River in 147 hours in 1937, while he never left the water, losing 12 kg (26 lbs.) during his swim.