



**125TH BOSTON
MARATHON[®]**

John Hancock[®]

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CONFIDENTIAL: Embargoed until Monday, April 19 at 10:00AM ET

Symbolic Patriots' Day Mile with Des Linden & Community Members *2018 Boston Marathon champion to surprise frontline workers and community members in a symbolic run to the Boston Marathon finish line on Patriots' Day*

BOSTON – On Monday, April 19—Patriots' Day—2018 Boston Marathon champion Des Linden will join frontline workers and community members in a symbolic running of the inaugural Patriots' Day Mile on Boylston Street.

Linden, a five-time top-five finisher of the Boston Marathon, two-time Olympic marathoner, and recently crowned national record holder for the 50K, will run alongside five frontline workers and community members who will be honored for their service to the community.

Media are invited to film or photograph the ceremonial Patriots' Day Mile run at the Boylston Street finish line, and will also have the opportunity to interview Linden, B.A.A. officials, and each of the five frontline workers and community members. Media who wish to attend or speak virtually with any of the attendees must [RSVP here](#).

WHAT: Finish line photo, video, and interview opportunity with 2018 Boston Marathon champion Des Linden, B.A.A. Officials, frontline workers and community members in honor of the Patriots' Day Mile.

WHEN & WHERE: Monday, April 19 at 10:00 a.m. at the Boston Marathon Finish Line on Boylston Street (attending media are asked to be in place at 9:45 a.m.)

WHO:

- **Des Linden**, 2018 Boston Marathon champion, two-time Olympic marathoner, five-time top-five finisher of the Boston Marathon, and newly crowned 50K national record holder.
- **Tom Grilk**, B.A.A. President and Chief Executive Officer
- **Five frontline workers and community members including:**
 - **Staff Sergeant Dorothy Anderson** of Southbridge joined the Massachusetts National Guard in 2007. She currently supports COVID-19 response operations as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the orders production team, ensuring that all Soldiers supporting the mission receive appropriate in- and out-processing. Her hard work and dedication ensures military medical professionals can focus entirely on mission accomplishment. SSG Anderson also studies at UMass Lowell where she was inducted into the SALUTE National Veterans Honor Society, and recently received the Meritorious Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, and Massachusetts Emergency Service Ribbon in recognition of superior accomplishments during the COVID-19 response. (*Unavailable for interviews following the event*)

- **Rochelle Solomon** of Boston is an essential worker in compliance for Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and is also a Black Girls RUN! Run Coordinator. In 2020, Rochelle achieved her goal of finishing the Boston Marathon Virtual Experience with the help of Road to Wellness coach Gael Henville.
- **Jessie Chen** is an active member of the BEN Running Club and has volunteered at the B.A.A. 10K, B.A.A. Half Marathon, and Boston Marathon through her running club. Her passion for running and community engagement has led her to take on a variety of community projects, volunteer her time at B.A.A. events and helped the mission of different organizations. She serves as a board member of the Lingzi Foundation, and together with Helen Zhao helped organize the annual Lingzi Dash 5K race. Recently she helped Chinese American Association of Lexington to organize the #StopAsianHate relay along the Boston Marathon route in March. Jessie has participated in the B.A.A. 5K twice, B.A.A. 10K once, and B.A.A Half Marathon once, and finished her first Boston Marathon in 2019 and the first virtual Boston Marathon in 2020.
- **Lindsay Devers**, a nurse anesthetist at Massachusetts General Hospital, gained fame for her marathon attempt on Patriots’ Day 2020 where she inadvertently spelled “Boston Strog” when completing 26.2 miles, forgetting the ‘n’! Devers’ was named to the 2020 Honorary Boston Marathon Team, and ran her 2020 for Dream Big! Her dedication and Boston Marathon spirit has inspired many.
- **Chris Vasquez** is a member of the PIONEERS Run Crew in Boston, a group that promotes diversity in the Boston running community with weekly runs in Franklin Park and Fields Corner. Determined to stay active, Chris joined the PIONEERS Run Crew in 2019 as a way to pursue a healthier lifestyle, and has since become a team captain. Chris says, "Running the Boston Marathon would mean everything to me. To be able to run my first marathon in my city, in front of friends and family and represent PRC, the run crew that taught me about this lifestyle, would be everything."

The inaugural **Patriots’ Day Mile** encourages everyone to get active while also raising funds for Boston-area nonprofits whose missions focus on health and wellness. The virtual event will be held on Monday, April 19—Patriots’ Day in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the traditional date of the Boston Marathon. Whether new to the sport or an experienced runner, the Patriots’ Day Mile is for everyone to enjoy the benefits of being active on America’s most historic running date. The Patriots’ Day Mile was created in support of the B.A.A.’s goal to provide broader access to the sport of running.

ABOUT THE BOSTON ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (B.A.A.)

Established in 1887, the Boston Athletic Association is a non-profit organization with a mission of promoting a healthy lifestyle through sports, especially running. The B.A.A. manages the Boston Marathon, and supports comprehensive charity, youth, and year-round programming. The Boston Marathon is part of the Abbott World Marathon Majors, along with international marathons in Tokyo, London, Berlin, Chicago, and New York City. Since 1986, the principal sponsor of the Boston Marathon has been John Hancock. The 125th Boston Marathon is scheduled to take place on Monday, October 11, 2021. For more information on the B.A.A., please visit www.baa.org.

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