

Bank of America Chicago Marathon Executive Race Director Carey Pinkowski Celebrates 20 Years with Honorary Street Naming at Race's Grant Park Start Line

Intersection of Monroe Street and Columbus Drive Now Named 'Carey Pinkowski Drive'

CHICAGO, IL (October 8 , 2009) □ To commemorate his 20 years of leadership as the Executive Race Director of the Bank of America Chicago Marathon, Carey Pinkowski was recognized today by the City of Chicago and Bank of America with an honorary street naming at the site of the race's start line. The intersection of Monroe Street and Columbus Drive now bears the name "Carey Pinkowski Drive."

"The growth of the Bank of America Chicago Marathon from the race it was in 1990 to its stature today is the combined effort of tens of thousands of hard-working individuals dedicated to maintaining its tradition," said Pinkowski. "Everyone including the volunteers, City of Chicago agencies and partners, our staff, sponsors and the entire running community has had a hand in its success. I am honored to have had the opportunity to be part of this race for so long and proud of what we as a team have been able to give back to the city through the its annual running."

In assuming the leadership role of the Chicago Marathon in 1990, Pinkowski inherited a race that hosted 7,269 starters and 5,635 finishers in 1989. During his tenure, the race has grown to host 45,000 registered participants, including representatives from all 50 states and more than 6,000 from outside the U.S. As a result of its popularity, 1.5 million spectators annually gather along the course and in Grant Park to witness the official start and finish of the 26.2-mile race.

"The job of a marathon race director really hasn't been around all that long. Carey Pinkowski has helped define it. In these 20 years, he has played a huge role in growing this race from 7,200 registrants to 45,000 and in establishing it as one of America's premier running events. On behalf of the people of Chicago, I want to thank Carey for his hard work and commitment to our city," Mayor Daley said.

"It has been an honor to work hand-in-hand with Carey and his team to produce the Bank of America Chicago Marathon each year," said Ald. Brendan Reilly of Chicago's 42nd Ward. "Today's installation is a fitting recognition of a man who has committed his career to an event that generates a wealth of positives for our residents, business owners and visitors."

Along with mass participation, the event has secured and maintained consistent sponsorship support leading to the arrival of its current steward, Bank of America. Since its arrival to the Marathon, Bank of America has focused on extending the effort that has led to a race that annually generates a \$143 million impact and \$10 million for charities.

"Carey Pinkowski has done a tremendous job of developing this event to its current status as one of the five World Marathon Major races," said Tim Maloney, Bank of America Illinois State and Chicago Market President. "We are proud and honored to recognize him today and look forward to our continued partnership with him to continue this race's grand legacy in the future."

In addition to producing the race, Pinkowski is responsible for recruiting the world-class athletes that compete for its championship title. Home to four world records, the Chicago Marathon has become one of the most competitive in the world. In its storied history it has hosted some of the great names in the sport including Steve Jones (GBR), Joan Benoit-Samuels (USA), Khalid Khannouchi (MAR/USA), Catherine Ndereba (KEN) and Paula Radcliffe (GBR). This year, among its star-studded field are Olympic medalists Deena Kastor (USA) and Sammy Wanjiru (KEN), reigning World Marathon Major champion Irina

Mikitenko (GER) and 2008 Chicago Marathon champion Lidiya Grigoryeva (RUS).

About the Bank of America Chicago Marathon

The 2009 Bank of America Chicago Marathon will start and finish in Chicago's Grant Park beginning at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 11. In advance of the race, a two-day Health & Fitness Expo will be held at McCormick Place on Friday, October 9 and Saturday, October 10. More information on the race is available at the event Web site, chicagomarathon.com.