

# AIR FORCE MARATHON

On behalf of the entire team at the Air Force Marathon, I want to extend a very big thank you for taking part in the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Air force Marathon. While we all know it did not play out as we all hoped, thousands of you from all 50 states and dozens of countries stuck with us through a tough summer and still captured the spirit of what this event has always been about.

Whilst it would be easy for me to lament the cancellation of an event we all looked forward to, I would prefer to focus on so many of the exciting things that occurred last year. We started a community group on Facebook that has flourished and seeing you all post hundreds of stories the past year has been incredible. We launched the new History and Heritage Race Series and 3,000 participants joined us this year as we featured six unique historic aircraft. Our team added many new members and for the first time in twenty five year history were able to hire a full time sponsorship coordinator. We shipped 10,000+ packages, this time it was much faster and included automated emails with tracking numbers.

As for the physical event, we added a lot of things that will have to make their debut in 2022. We significantly increased the number of timing splits on the course which will help family and friends who track you. We are working on a brand new app that is integrated with our timing splits and finisher results for a more seamless experience. We are bringing back the relay after a fifteen year hiatus. And I cannot even begin to list all the various little details we had worked to improve, they will have to wait until next September!

All that aside, for those of you who stuck with us, you all are amazing. Our team has been completely blown away by the incredible stories we have seen. Those who flew across the country to support family and friends running virtually, those who this would have been their first marathon still electing to give 26.2 a go on their own, friends who still met up to do a relay together, and so many other great stories. I truly understand that virtual is not the same, but I also understand that the experience is what you make it. I am proud to know so many of you all who decided to make your virtual experience great.

We will be back next year for the 26th Annual Air Force Marathon to be held on September 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 will also be exciting for another reason. For the first time in our history the featured aircraft is a Lockheed AC-130J Ghost Rider. We are absolutely stoked on this selection and hope you all are too! We hope you will join us next year and come celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States Air Force! As always, registration opens on January 1<sup>st</sup> with our best pricing lasting only 72 hours!

Lastly, we have a lot of big things coming in the next few months, and I do mean BIG! Keep your eyes out for our emails and our posts on social media because we are up to no good!

Thanks for running with us and know that we are always here to support you!

Happy running!

*Brandon Hough*

Brandon Hough  
Director, U.S. Air Force Marathon

*Where Perseverance & Pride Take Flight!*