

## Legacy Runner Scott Cline



### LA Marathon Memory

My most important memory is that of my Lady, and my girl and two boys running and finishing the LA Marathon. The kids are all my lady's from before I joined their lives, but I tried to support and be a good example for them.

They all choose to do the marathon, and we trained for the event in our local mountains on trails through the forest. Those times were great all by themselves. But my hope is that because they applied themselves to a long-term goal, did the long preparation required, and then had the glorious feeling of crossing the Finish line after 26.2 miles, now they will always understand how to succeed in their lives. I have a wonderful picture of the two boys (12 & 17 at the time) and I finishing together.

My strongest non-family memory is of Muhammad Ali from the earlier 1990s. (It was at the start of one of our marathons, heading North on Figueroa from the Coliseum area.) Ali attended many of these earlier starts, and I've done them all, so sorry, I can't be certain which year it was.

Ali is up on the Starter's stand, waving to us as we go by. Many, many people are chanting, "Ali! Ali!" while beginning their own personal endeavor. Despite his debilitating Parkinson's, Ali came and gave strength to many of us.

One of the runners going by got so wrapped up in the enthusiasm that he removed his LA Marathon runner's hat and then, apparently without thinking about Ali's Parkinson's, flung it up to him. The hat was flying on a curve to pass in front of Ali, spinning as a Frisbee does. I was amazed to watch Ali's eyes lock onto the hat, and see his hand snake out to strike and grab the hat before it flew past. A cheer from the crowd!