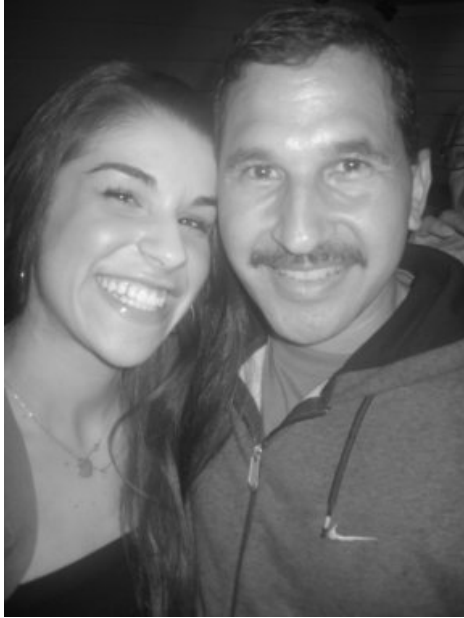


## Legacy Runner Louis Fernandez



My name is Louis Fernandez and I started running the LA marathon by chance. I saw/heard an advertisement for it and decided to run. I never did any long distance running in school. My training consisted of jogging to the 7-11, which is about a mile from my parent's house. I ran the first 13 and walked in the rest of the way. Never did I think that 25 years later, I would be one of the Legacy Runners.

I have many memories of the LA marathon. My personal best, which I ran just 2 years ago, shaking hands with Mayor Bradley during the run, and many more. I used to play on a softball team that played on Sunday afternoons. I would run the marathon, and go play softball at 3pm that afternoon. The most memorable marathon, however, I believe was the seventh? I was feeling sick, (flu) when I woke up. Was sick to my stomach starting at the seventh mile and every mile thereafter, but I managed through each and every mile and was able to finish the marathon. That was probably the most determined I had ever been to make sure I finished. I was even concerned that the medics were going to pull me from the race, but obviously they didn't.

I am 44 years young, live in North Carolina now and am a grocery store manager. I have a wife of 18 years a son, Louis Jr, and a daughter, Melissa. I don't get to train much, but I do what I can, usually starting to train just after the new year.