

TRIBUTES TO FRED LEBOW

Following are some of the many tributes received from athletes, officials and media representatives around the world to be read out at the programme.



EDWARD I. KOCH
1290 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10104

October 13, 1994

I am sorry that I am unable to join you in the tribute to Fred Lebow. It is unusual for a private citizen to receive so many tributes. But Fred was a figure of admiration in the United States and countries around the world, and he deserves every one of them.

Fred initially inspired millions of people by bringing the New York City Marathon to the consciousness of the entire world and making it the premier marathon. He later inspired us by the courage that he demonstrated after he was afflicted with cancer. Fred surely belongs in the pantheon of individuals who have made exceptional contributions during their lives to the citizens of the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ed Koch', with a stylized, cursive script.

Edward I. Koch



Fred has touched many lives all over the world—including mine. I will always treasure the memory of him and the friendship we developed since my first visit to New York in 1978.

Fred, I will always be thankful for your kindness; you will always have a special place in my heart.

You will be missed, but your memory and spirit will always run with me.

Grete Waitz

Grete Waitz



My heart goes out to one of the most dynamic and energetic people I've ever met. We will always miss your spirit and drive, but not forget your vision.

Carl Lewis

Carl Lewis

Thoughts About Fred

I liked Fred Lebow because he seemed to be a person who believed in non-violence — and he was of course a Marathoner!

Bill Rodgers

NYC

76-79

Bill Rodgers

Fred Lebow will be remembered by most of the general public as the founder and director of the greatest road race in the world, the NYC Marathon. Besides being that, he was much more. Fred was undoubtedly one of the most influential people that helped popularize running in this country starting in the 1970s. He was way ahead of his time in finding ways to get Americans to explore the benefits of running and fitness. The elite athletes that set world records in the NYC Marathon were really an insignificant part of the great benefits that his promotion of long-distance running gave to Americans and people worldwide.

In addition to having been a trailblazer and pioneer in popularizing running, Fred Lebow was also a great and caring human being. His fame and power never went to his head, and his main concern was always the sport of running as opposed to the business of running. His love and concern for all those who were fortunate to know him as a friend were his most remarkable assets. I will never forget the way he would look like a little elf, when wearing his ever-present running cap; he would smile and his eyes would crinkle up and almost shut. For me personally he was always a tremendous source of inspiration and support not only during the good times but also the bad times. Of all the race directors I've known, he was the one

who always kept in closest contact during the tough years, and he was the first to call me when I ran well again.

I will miss Fred Lebow tremendously, because I loved him as I love my family, but I don't feel especially sad because I truly believe that he's in a better place now, and I look forward to seeing him there someday.

God Bless!

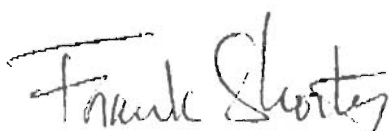
A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alberto Salazar". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alberto" being more prominent and the last name "Salazar" following in a similar style.

Alberto Salazar

Fred Lebow was a true "New Yorker," and it took his kind of personality to organize and promote the NYC Marathon.

He was very, very unusual in that he truly advanced the cause of running without consideration for his own personal gain. His mode of dress, soft-spoken, diplomatic manner and almost ascetic lifestyle were genuinely "Fred."

Personally, I will miss him very much.

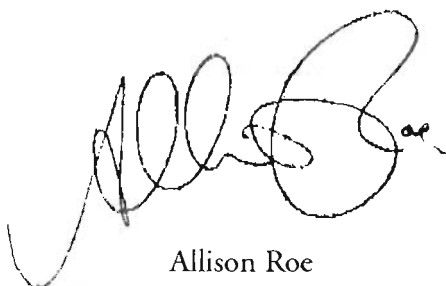
A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Frank Shorter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Frank" is written with a large, sweeping "F" that extends over the word "Shorter". The last name "Shorter" is written with a prominent "S" and a trailing flourish.

Frank Shorter

Some people never run a Marathon...but to Fred, the Marathon was his life, his love and his hope and joy.

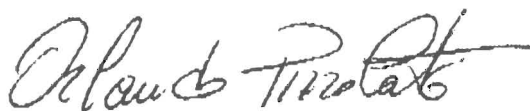
I saw Fred as an extraordinary man with extraordinary vision in creating and developing the NYC Marathon, an event that has given so many people the opportunity to challenge themselves.

Fred was a man I respected and hoped to see again, but I am consoled by the thought that he will be in New York at the Marathon Celebrations in spirit, and not in pain.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allison Roe'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Allison Roe

I have always been impressed by Fred's simplicity and his concern for everybody. All the times I met Fred, he was very busy, but he was never overwhelmed by the events and he was always friendly and available to everybody. People from all over the world loved him for this. He was a man of few words, but his eyes spoke better than words. I like to remember his glance when I met him the last time. He was running alone in Central Park, waving his hands to all the people who were cheering him, but at the same time looking far, very far away.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Orlando Pizzolato". The script is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Orlando Pizzolato

MELBOURNE MARATHON INCORPORATED



Fred Lebow had a passion and a vision for running that was very unique and consequently his name will forever stand the test of time for his magnificent contribution to the growth and popularity of running not only in the U.S. but throughout the world.

He was responsible both directly and indirectly for converting thousands of people to a better lifestyle of fitness and health.

Fred Lebow was in every sense of the word a true champion of running. I will be forever thankful for his involvement.

Derek Clayton



I first met Fred Lebow at the New York Road Runners Club office back in 1979. I was in New York for a trade show, representing Sub-4 clothing, when I was invited to the Club to put ribbons on the medals for the marathon finishers. Fred was there, and he was amazed that America's best miler would spend time doing such a menial task. At the same time, I was impressed to meet the legend behind the New York City Marathon!

I discovered that Fred was not an idol to be worshipped, but rather a very down-to-earth kind of guy who was willing to devote his entire life to those who shared his passion—running. If it had anything to do with running, Fred was there to support, promote or market the event to the best of his ability.

No one else in this country has been so involved in all aspects of running as Fred Lebow. It started with the New York City Marathon. Then Fred moved on to other races, such as the Corporate Challenge, the Trevira Twosome and the New Year's Eve Run. Fred was not content to stay within the lines. In the early '80s he came up with the idea of the Fifth Avenue Mile—a mile race down 5th Avenue, televised live on

ABC! And so began the era of the road mile—all started by the innovator of our sport, Fred Lebow.

Next came the Ekiden Relay, an event designed to benefit not just the world-class athlete, but also the regional athlete. The Road Runners Club also has gone out on a limb to put together a major track invitational in the City of New York.

The point is that Fred Lebow was a friend of every runner of all levels of ability, and an innovator in the sport of running. His ideas and events will often be copied, but can never be duplicated.

Fred Lebow has touched us all in one way or another. He will most certainly be missed, but shall never be forgotten.

Thank you, Fred, for everything.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Steve Scott". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first and last names clearly legible.

Steve Scott



It was with heartfelt sadness that I received the news of Fred Lebow's death. All of his New Zealand friends mourn his passing, but we gather strength from his true grit and determination during his illness, and his love of the sport of running, which was so dear to his heart.

Fred is now at peace. He will always inspire me in my life's endeavours.

To quote Sri Chinmoy: "To have peace is to have the treasure of treasures."

Rod Dixon

The New York City Marathon is synonymous with Fred Lebow. The Marathon will never be the same. I will miss you, Fred!

Ingrid Kristiansen

I owe to Fred Lebow's love and enthusiasm for running the major part of my growth as an athlete.

Gianni Poli

Fred loved to see athletes from every part of the world coming to the Marathon. When he saw that I was the first elite Italian marathoner participating, he insisted that I should run with the blue shirt. He convinced me by saying, "It will be stimulating for you and a motive of pride for all Italian-Americans along the course." I owe him that fourth place.

Marco Marchei

I thank Fred Lebow very much for having created the most fascinating running event that takes place during the year. I salute you with my heart.

Salvatore Bettiol

Upon hearing of the passing of Fred Lebow, I would like to express from my heart a feeling of sadness and loss. I regret that while I have participated in many races, I have not been able to run in the New York City Marathon. I pray that President Lebow shall now rest in peace.

Toshihiko Seko

To you, Fred, who opened the road to my ultra-marathon performances and achievements, to you, Fred, who immeasurably increased the prestige of running, we owe eternal gratitude.

In the name of the freedom that the marathon represents, your memory will be immortal. It will lead us always because, like the valiant soldier after the Battle of Marathon, you have declared another "Nenikikamen!" (We have been victorious!) by establishing the marathon internationally and by giving it the value it deserves.

Your name, Fred, will be remembered down the centuries because it is synonymous with the marathon, king of races.

Yiannis Kouros

Fred was a man of vision who turned his vision into reality, for the enrichment of thousands. Thank you, Fred, for your tremendous contribution to the development of running. We are all richer for having known you.

Don Ritchie

We have lost not only a close friend but the visionary who revolutionized running to what it is today. If he hadn't pushed us further and further there would never have been sponsored marathons and races. If he hadn't insisted, the best track and field athletes would never have come to New York. Without him we would still be in the Stone Age of amateurism.

To many of us, Fred Lebow was our mentor. How can I ever thank him enough? Volunteering for his events gave me the opportunity to become the professional organizer I am today.

Fred may never have realized it, but I owe him my life, and I will always keep his vision and guidance alive in my memory.

I don't think any of us will forget Fred. I trust, together, we can continue making his dreams and ideas come true.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mart", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Martin Bentz
former Elite Athlete Coordinator
New York Road Runners Club

Dear Fred,

Your memories will always live in me. Rest in peace. I will pray for you often.

Cahit Yeter

Fred came to running in the 1970s as just the right man for the times. The sport was burgeoning then, but most of the promoters still thought in terms of limits. Fred imagined possibilities. He did what others said couldn't be done. All runners came to know him, and we all honor him for leaving the sport much better than he had found it.

Joe Henderson
West Coast Editor, Runner's World

The standard champion wins his prize and moves on, untouched. Fred defied the standard and left us better for being touched by him.

Steve Jacobson

Steve Jacobson
New York Newsday columnist



NATIONAL MASTERS NEWS



The official world and U.S. publication for Masters track & field, long distance running and race walking.

We in the masters running community, both in the USA and throughout the world, are profoundly saddened at the passing of Fred Lebow. He not only touched our lives; he changed our lives, and, in some cases, he prolonged our lives.

Fred, we in the international masters running community love you, we shall miss you and we shall be forever indebted to you. You have improved the quality of our lives in every way. We are happy you are receiving the recognition you deserve and the place in history which is yours and yours alone.

Al Sheehan

Editor, National Masters News

CENTRAL PARK

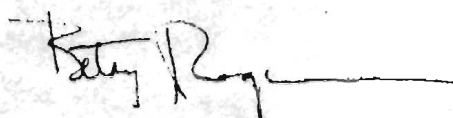
Henry J. Stern
Commissioner of Parks & Recreation
City of New York

Elizabeth Barlow Rogers
Central Park Administrator

Fred Lebow will take his place among the great civic entrepreneurs who have left an important legacy in New York City. Fred's life and work provided a catalyst for recreational runners, first in Central Park, then throughout the five boroughs of New York City, as well as in cities here and abroad.

The transformation of the New York Marathon from a small Central Park running event into an international institution is an extraordinary achievement. The spirit of our city has been immeasurably uplifted by this event and by its singular creator.

We in Central Park will miss Fred very much.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elizabeth Barlow Rogers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Elizabeth Barlow Rogers
Central Park Administrator



Without any doubt, Fred Lebow was responsible for the mass participation in marathons and road races which we now see happening every week throughout the world. Fred took what was the domain of the elite, trained athlete and turned it into a 'sport for all', with hundreds of thousands of people from every walk of life, every state of health and fitness taking part and enjoying the atmosphere of participation in a sporting event.

From Fred's guidance and inspiration, other such events like London, Honolulu, Berlin and Melbourne blossomed.

Always the thinker, always planning ahead, Fred saw that much could be gained for each of these marathons across the globe if they formed some sort of association of race directors so that they could exchange ideas, knowledge and expertise between each other and thus improve each event. Along with Chris Brasher (London), Dave Benson (Honolulu), Serge Arsenault (Montreal) and others, Fred pushed forward the idea of this association, and after numerous informal meetings, the Association of International Marathons (AIMS) was born, with its first World Congress and formal adoption of its Articles of Association in London in May 1982.

Fred Lebow's influence throughout the world in the sport of running grew each year, and with his track suit, cycling cap and beard, he became the 'father

figure' of road running. His contribution to the formation and continuing development of AIMS was profound—always a helpful suggestion here, an idea there and always thought through and beneficial to such a diverse organization as AIMS, with members in 56 countries.

Fred travelled much and visited many members of this organization for their races, sometimes taking part, always on hand to assist and give helpful suggestions.

Despite his obvious pain, Fred turned up at the 8th World Congress of AIMS in Lisbon, Portugal in 1993, took part in the activities and ran the half-marathon there. Fred retired from his position as Vice-President of AIMS at the end of 1991 and was elected President Emeritus of the Association at a meeting held in Boston in April 1992.

Fred Lebow will long remain in the hearts of runners throughout the world.

Andy Galloway
Secretary General
Association of International Marathons
and Road Races



Our organization is tremendously proud of the great contributions that Fred Lebow made to the sport of Track and Field, Long Distance Running and Race Walking. Fred's most notable accomplishments were in the area of long distance running, where he was the principal architect of the long distance running renaissance in the United States. As a result of his efforts, we as a society enjoy the good health and well being that comes from long distance running, and many of us have come to know the joy of being out on a good distance run. The competence of our elite athletes in this area has also been taken to a higher level. Fred leaves us an unusual legacy that should challenge all of us to work cooperatively in fulfilling his dreams for our sport.

Part of the legacy of Fred Lebow is the endearing personality that left its mark on so many that he came in contact with. His extraordinary administrative skills combined with insight, wit, humility and a sincere respect for his fellow man elevates the esteem that we have for this wonderful human being. Yes, he will be remembered as one of our Great Leaders.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Larry Ellis'.

Larry Ellis
President
USA Track & Field

Fred Lebow was the father of modern distance running. He gave us a sport in which we could taste the thrill of challenge and the joy of triumph.

In a local race, one steamy fall morning in Miami, Fred was chasing his personal record for 10 kilometers. Through the first 4 kilometers he was ahead of the scheduled pace and feeling strong. Although well-trained in chilly New York, he had had only one day to acclimatize. The temperature rose and took its toll. Through the next 3 kilometers, he slowed and fell behind the record schedule. He suffered in the last 3,000 meters. His hopes for his record were long forgotten, but he was happy as his spirit responded to the ever-increasing difficulty. He knew he was winning all through those last tough miles and never gave in. After the race it was clear from the look in his eyes that he knew what really mattered.

Fred arrived on the athletic scene at a time when only world championship performances by gold medal performers had any significance. Through his devoted work he developed a value system through which the "athlete" within all of us ordinary people could be released and an environment in which it could flourish. He told the world through gentle persuasion and dedicated example that achievement was not the private property of superstars. He taught the world the meaning of the word 'champion' and how, by application, determination and personal integrity, we could all be champions.

Basil Honikman
*USA Track & Field Long Distance
Running Information Center*



Boston Athletic Association

In sport, we tend to focus on the athlete or the performance. When we focus on the event, it is because of an exception. When we focus on the orchestrator of such an event, it is for greater, more powerful reasons. Undeniably, Fred Lebow was one of these "greater reasons."

Clearly, Fred Lebow was an exemplary leader in the sport of running who had a special vision. He shaped the future of running by what he did in the present. What made Fred's vision remarkable was that he made his particular ideals reality. He put many of his ideas into practice with a sensibility and success which will remain as a lesson for those he has left behind.

This success is what put Fred Lebow in the very front of the pack. His colorful and seemingly limitless imagination was coupled with his dynamic energy, succeeding all the while, sometimes flamboyantly, sometimes brashly, but always fearlessly.

Fred had a profound effect upon our sport, becoming a virtual ambassador. Our sport was truly blessed that Fred chose running as his venue to make his mark in history.

There are runners today, and there will be runners tomorrow. Whether they will realize it or not, all will be touched and influenced by the direction Fred

Lebow provided the New York Road Runners Club and the sport of running. Perhaps it is this legacy which is the best tribute that could ever be paid to a man who led the way at distances—making his mark not only with his athletic ability, but also with his determination and imagination.

Guy Morse

Race Director

Boston Athletic Association Boston Marathon



Fred Lebow was a giant who never forgot his roots. His dedication to running and fitness changed the lifestyle of millions of people the world over, but he saw running as more than a fitness activity. It was a way of bringing people of diverse cultures together. His legacy will live in the hearts of anyone who laces up a pair of shoes and heads out the door.

Jim Barabal, M.D.
President
Honolulu Marathon Association

Jonathan Cross, D.D.S.
Race Director
Honolulu Marathon Association



**Stichting
Rotterdam Marathon**

We were sad to hear that after being ill for a long time, Fred Lebow has passed away. With him we lost a prominent friend of marathons and road races.

Mario Kadike
Race Director
Rotterdam Marathon Foundation



Fred Lebow will be missed in many ways.

The international running community will miss his pioneering spirit, for it was Fred who helped to shape the field of running into what it is today, and who has made amazing contributions to the world of long distance running.

Hundreds of thousands of runners throughout the world will miss Fred, as he was the one who gave each of them the opportunity to test their endurance and mental tenacity each year in the New York City Marathon.

He will be missed by the staff and volunteers of the New York Road Runners Club, for it was Fred who inspired each of them to contribute to the success of the New York Marathon for the past twenty-five years.

He will be missed by the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and the many cancer survivors whom he has inspired over the years.

He will be missed by his family and friends.

We will all miss an extraordinary individual and a great friend.

Without Fred Lebow, the City of Los Angeles Marathon would not be here today. That is why the tenth running of the L.A. Marathon on Sunday,

March 5, 1995, will be dedicated to the memory and legacy of Fred Lebow. Fred guided me and encouraged me throughout the development of the marathon. More than once he kept me from making stupid decisions. Whenever I had a problem that I couldn't solve, Fred was one of the first people I would call, and he always had dependable, sincere advice.

Fred Lebow was an inspiration to me and to dozens of other race directors around the world. He was ahead of his time, a pioneer in the field of running. He started with a dream of what could be, and built that into reality. What started as 127 runners in Central Park has become an annual challenge for more than 30,000 runners and an international event renowned throughout the global running community.

This is the legacy that Fred has left for us to follow. Our challenge now is to carry on Fred's aspirations. The traditions he has established will live on as we exhibit the determination and the fortitude that were so characteristic of Fred's everyday life—both professionally and personally. We must each strive to carry on Fred's vision, with the same integrity and determination that so characterized his life.

We must strive, as Fred always did, not only to cross the finish line, but to reach it with style, grace and dignity.

Dr. Wm. A. Burke
President
Los Angeles Marathon

In September 1993 I met Fred Lebow for the first time at a Race Directors' Workshop at the Portland Marathon. As I was a brand new race coordinator with only 60 days on the job, Fred quickly offered me his wisdom and knowledge on organizing a marathon event. His friendly demeanor and love of the sport immediately made him a new-found friend and mentor. Fred Lebow will not be missed, because his personal touch on the Marine Corps Marathon will live on, as well as his legacy as one of the greatest race directors in the sport of road racing.

Semper fidelis,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rick Nealis". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Rick Nealis
MAJ USMC
Race Coordinator
Marine Corps Marathon



Fred Lebow was a legend, a leader who possessed the passion, dedication and obsession present in all runners and in all human beings who strive to be better each day than they were the day before.

His commitment to excellence in running and road racing, and his quest of bringing running to the forefront of American athletics were unmatched in our profession.

His energy and drive will continue to inspire all of us in our athletic endeavors and in our daily lives for years to come.

David M. Patt
Executive Director
Chicago Area Runners Association



There is no doubt that Fred Lebow was instrumental in the development of road racing in the United States. His love and enthusiasm for the sport of running allowed his promotional abilities to come to the forefront. Fred's insight in the development of the New York City Marathon, 5th Avenue Mile and the New York Road Runners Club are only a few examples of his vision with the sport. He has clearly made a difference throughout the world.

Scott Keenan

Race Director

Grandma's Marathon, Duluth, Minnesota