

the oklahoma city  memorial marathon
a run to remember

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CONTACT: Randy Swanson
405.205.6593

27 DAYS TO GO!!!

**OKC MEMORIAL MARATHON
RUNS TO REMEMBER FOR THE NINTH YEAR
Preparations well underway for biggest event yet**

OKLAHOMA CITY – Registration is running well ahead of 2008 pace, and volunteers are readying for a record-shattering ninth edition of the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon, with runners, walkers, and young marathoners in training for the Sunday, April 26 event. Often referred to as the “Run to Remember,” this event honors those lost in the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City.

“Our organization is well into preparations for another great event, and we’re well on our way to another record year,” said race director Chet Collier. “Runners from all fifty states love this event and have made Oklahoma City a destination location because of our great organization, and for the cause it represents.”

Serious runners to recreational walkers can choose from five events to participate, including the full Marathon (26.2 miles), Half Marathon, Five-Person Relay, 5K Memorial Walk, Wheelchair Marathon and the always exciting Kid’s Marathon.

The very popular and growing Marathon Expo will be held on the Friday and Saturday prior to the race, with shoe and apparel vendors, running clinics and other events of interest to all Oklahomans – runners or not.

Honored guests in 2009 will include perennial favorites **Bill Rodgers** and **Dick Beardsley** -- running legends who have become cornerstones of the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon. Olympic gymnastics gold medalist **Shannon Miller** will be back to lead the Kid’s Marathon. Coming back for her second visit to the event is **Joan Benoit Samuelson**, the winner of the first women’s Olympic Marathon in Los Angeles in 1984. **Gilbert Tuhabonye**, survivor of ethnic genocidal battles in his native Burundi and author of his autobiography, *This Voice in My Heart*, will return to this event he loves so much. New to the OKC Marathon this year will be **Amy Palmiero-Winters**, a well-known amputee runner who lost her left leg in an automobile-motorcycle accident in 1994. Since that time, Amy has run multiple marathons and triathlons. Learn more about Amy at www.seeamyrun.com

More exciting announcements about the 2009 event will follow.

“We anticipate another great and rewarding event in 2009,” said Collier. “Our event is unique in the running community, and has grown in stature and respect for each of its eight years. Our volunteers and supporters work very hard to maintain those high standards, and will execute another first class event.

“We’re serious about honoring those friends and neighbors lost in the 1995 Murrah Bombing, and what better way to do that than to celebrate life through fitness,” he continued.

“We invite runners and walkers of all ages to join us downtown for the 2009 Run to Remember. You’ll be glad you did,” Collier concluded.

For more information, or to register online, visit www.okcmarathon.com.