DEAR STRIDERS

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MAN WHO SAVED

ROAD RACING

May 5, 1986

Delegate John Astle 51 Fleet Street Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear John:

A very special "Thank you!" for your ability, concern, and hard work. The introduction and subsequent passage of your bill which formally permits the closing of state roads for footrace events should make runners across Maryland draw a sigh of relief.

We know that there are many who are unaware that there was even a threat to events such as the Annapolis Run, Baltimore City Marathon, Clydes, Fritzbee's, and many other fine events. But if you hadn't stepped in to help settle the issue, there may have been a moratorium on holding large running events and so much of the excitement, enjoyment and benefit of the sport would have been lost for months or even years through the probable cancellation of some of these races.

When you ran the first Annapolis Run, years ago, and sprinted down Main Street with Randy Fox and the other original Striders and Severna Park Funrunners, did you ever think it would come to this? Thanks for your responsible and energetic stewardship in this issue.

At our monthly board meeting on May 12, it was unanimously voted that you be granted lifetime, invited runner status to the Annapolis Run as a gesture symbolic of our appreciation for your achievement on behalf of all runners across the State of Maryland.



Sincerely,

Michael van Beuren Race Director, Annapolis Ten-Mile Run

Doug Pond President, Annapolis Striders



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