



# Iditarod Trail Committee

2100 South Knik Goose Bay Road, Wasilla, Alaska 99654

907.376.5155 (voice) 907.373.6998 (facsimile)

[www.iditarod.com](http://www.iditarod.com)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 11, 2017**

### **Joseph Redington Jr. named 2018 Honorary Musher**

**Wasilla, Alaska** - On Oct. 6, 2017, the Iditarod Trail Committee board of directors unanimously selected Joseph (Joe) Redington Jr. as the 2018 Honorary Musher. Joe passed away in Fairbanks on Aug. 14, 2017, at the age of 74. He was the oldest son of Joe Redington Sr., the "Father of the Iditarod."

Board President Andy Baker contacted Joe's wife, Pam Redington, to give her the news. Pam said she and her family were honored and that her husband would have been honored as well.

Traditionally, the Honorary Musher is the first to leave the ceremonial start's starting line in downtown Anchorage at the corner of Fourth Avenue and D Street. On March 3, 2018, that position will be reserved for Joe Redington Jr.'s wife, Pam.

Joe had a long history of competitive mushing, winning the 1966 Fur Rendezvous while he was serving in the United States Army. He placed 12<sup>th</sup> in the 1967 Iditarod Centennial Race. Later, he finished the 1974 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in ninth place. He ran the Iditarod one more time in 1975, finishing in third place.

Joe and Pam lived in Manley Hot Springs where they raised their daughter, Heather, and son, Joe Ray. In 2003, 2015, and 2017, Joe Redington was instrumental in transforming the community of Manley Hot Springs into the third checkpoint on the Iditarod Trail when the race restart was moved to Fairbanks due to poor weather conditions.

In 2017, the Manley Hot Springs checkpoint was awarded the prestigious Golden Clipboard award. This award is presented by the Iditarod Trail Committee to the most outstanding checkpoint and Joe Redington played a big role in Manley Hot Springs receiving that award.

### **About the Iditarod Trail Committee**

Headquartered in Wasilla, Alaska, the Iditarod Trail Committee is charged with preserving the historic tradition of the sled dog and the Iditarod Trail, by promoting and staging the annual Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. For more information, visit:

[www.iditarod.com](http://www.iditarod.com).

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**Media contact:**

Chas St. George, Iditarod Trail Committee

Email: [chas.stgeorge@iditarod.com](mailto:chas.stgeorge@iditarod.com)

Phone: 907-352-2215