



E-NEWSLETTER

March News

2010 Legendary Driver Award Goes to Parnelli Jones



The Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation is honored to announce racing legend Parnelli Jones as our 2010 Legendary Driver award winner.

The award will be presented during the 11th annual Racing to Recovery Gala on Wednesday, May 19 in Indianapolis.

The competitive versatility of Parnelli Jones is, perhaps, unmatched in all of racing. In his career, he won races in many types of vehicles: sports cars, IndyCars, sprint cars, midget cars, off-road vehicles and stock cars. He is associated with the famous Boss 302 Mustang, with his wins using the engine in the 1970's.

Parnelli Jones may be most remembered for his 1963 Indianapolis 500 win, for almost winning the 1967 Indianapolis 500 in a revolutionary

General Petraeus, Lt. Brennan to team up at the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg 5K on March 26

General David Petraeus, the Commander of U.S. Central Command in Tampa and former Commanding General of the Multi-National Force in Iraq will reunite with wounded veteran Brian Brennan at the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg for the inaugural 5K Run, Walk 'N Wheel-a-thon to support spinal cord injury/paralysis research and wounded veterans.

Lt. Brennan's dramatic awakening during a visit from Gen. Petraeus while hospitalized at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington received national media attention and sparked an amazing recovery. Brennan is now back on his feet, having mastered the use of two prosthetic legs, and will join Petraeus at the 5K event.

(For CBS News video report, [click here](#)).

The family event will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Friday evening, March 26, in downtown St. Petersburg, directly on the Honda Grand Prix race course. The public is welcome. Advance registration at www.GrandPrix5K.com (\$25); with same day registration (\$30) if slots still available. First 1,000 registrants receive a free ticket to Friday's on-track activities.

"The Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation has long supported our soldiers and veterans and what a thrill it is to have General Petraeus and Lt. Brennan participate in our

turbine-powered car, and for his role in bringing the stock block engine to USAC Sprint Car racing.

Parnelli Jones' career as a racecar driver spanned 2+ decades. Starting in the 1950's, he quickly became a Stock Car phenomenon. He won at Pike's Peak in 1963 and the USAC Stock Car crown in 1964. His first major championship was the Midwest Region Sprint Car title in 1960. The title caught the attention of promoter J.C. Agajanian, who became his sponsor.

In 1962, Parnelli Jones' raced the Indianapolis 500 in a car called "01' Calhoun", now on display in the Speedway Museum. He finished 12th and was named Rookie of the Year. In the 1962 Indianapolis 500, Jones became the first driver to qualify at over 150 mph, winning the pole position with a speed of 150.370 mph. In 1967, he raced the Indianapolis 500 for team owner Andy Granatelli.

When Parnelli Jones retired as a driver, he quickly became a successful team owner, winning the Indianapolis 500 in 1970 and 1971 with driver Al Unser, the 1971, 1972, & 1973 USAC National Championships, and championships in off road racing, as well as running a Formula One team. He also found success as a businessman, with Firestone distributorships and other business pursuits.

Parnelli Jones was inducted into the prestigious International Motorsports Hall of Fame in 1990.

event. We're grateful to the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg for supporting this inaugural event and allowing the participants to run, walk and wheel on the Indy Car track in support of paralysis research and those with disabilities," says Ida Cahill, President of the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation (SSPF), organizer of the event.

Three other charities are collaborating with SSPF, including the Challenged Athletes Foundation, Shoot For A Cure Moto-Sport and Embracing Florida's Wounded Heroes.

Upcoming Events

March:

- 3/26: Run, Walk 'N Wheelathon, St. Petersburg FL
- 3/27: Day at the Races, St. Petersburg FL

April:

- 4/14: Parnelli Jones Private Museum, Torrance, CA
- 4/17: Day at the Races, Long Beach CA

May:

- 5/19: Annual May Gala, Indianapolis IN
- 5/21: Day at the Races, Indianapolis IN (tentative date)

June:

- 6/18: Run, Walk 'N Wheelathon, Newton IA (tentative)
- 6/19: Day at the Races, Newton IA

July:

- 7/15: Run, Walk 'N Wheelathon, Honda Indy, Toronto Canada
- 7/17: Day at the Races, Toronto Canada (tentative)

August:

Even today, when someone drives very fast you are likely to hear people say, "Who does he think he is, Parnelli Jones?"

For more information on Parnelli Jones and the International Motorsports hall of Fame, click [here](#).
To view a video on the 1967 Indy 500, click [here](#).

Olympic Fever Is Far From Over!



The 2010 International Paralympic games take place in Vancouver March 12-21.

The Paralympic Games are a multi-sport event for athletes with physical and visual disabilities, including athletes with mobility disabilities, amputations, blindness, and cerebral palsy.

In the 2010 Winter Paralympic Games, athletes will compete in five disciplines – Alpine Skiing, Ice Sledge Hockey, Biathlon, Cross-Country Skiing and Wheelchair Curling. The events emphasize the participants' athletic achievements rather than their disability.

A projected 600 elite athletes with a physical disability from more than 40 countries are expected to compete at the Games. The U.S. Team, made up of athletes from 20 U.S. states, will compete in five sports (alpine skiing, biathlon, cross country skiing, sled hockey and wheelchair curling).

- 8/19: Run, Walk, 'N Wheelathon, Infineon Raceway, Sonoma CA
- 8/21: Day at the Races, Infineon Raceway, Sonoma CA
- 8/28: Day at the Races, Chicago, IL

September:

- 9/3: Day at the Races, Sparta KY

October:

- 10/30: Run, Walk & Wheelathon, Las Vegas, NV

November:

- 11/1: 5th Annual Racing to Recovery Golf Tournament, Las Vegas, NV

Visit our website for information on how to register for any of these events, or call the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation at 317-236-9999.



In 2006, the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation collaborated with Joni and Friends to provide a Quality of Life grant for very special wheelchair racing wheels for an athlete from Ghana to attend the Paralympic Games in Beijing, China.

The Paralympic Games take place in the same year as the Olympic Games and are now held in the same city, using the same venues.

History Of The Paralympics

Prior to WW II, life expectancy after a spinal cord injury was only a few years. After WWII, medical knowledge regarding spinal cord injuries improved dramatically, which then translated into improved rehabilitation techniques, leading to ever-improving life expectancy.

In 1944, wheelchair sport and recreation were introduced as forms of treatment and rehabilitation for war veterans with spinal cord injuries. This initiative eventually led to the first official Paralympic Games, held in Rome, Italy in 1960.

Future Of the Paralympics

The Paralympic movement has grown dramatically since its early days, from a few hundred participating athletes to thousands today. The Games are the world's largest sporting event after the Olympics, and the fastest growing movement in international sports.

The Paralympic Games continue to evolve with time, giving a chance for disabled athletes all over the world to come together and compete for the same thing, to strive for the best.

The Games hold no limits or boundaries; only never-ending possibilities for athletes all over the world.

To learn more about the Paralympics, click [here](#).

For information on the 2010 Paralympics in Vancouver, click [here](#).

For interesting stories about paralympic athletes, click [here](#).

To read a newsletter including a daily overview of the Games experience, interviews and stories, click [here](#).

For daily highlights video clips, click [here](#).

Viewers from all over the world can tune in to coverage of the Games at www.ParalympicSport.TV.



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