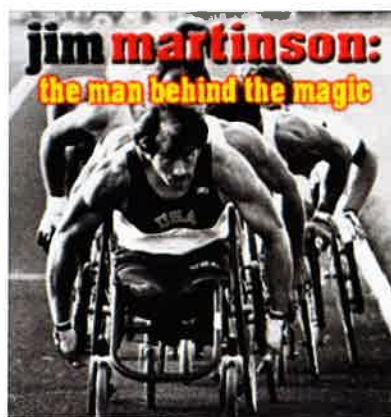




S. AIR FORCE PHOTO/STAFF SGT. DESIREE N. PALACIOS)

Jim MARTINSON





BORN OCT. 27, 1946

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

1968: Purple Heart for service in VietNam

1980: Gold & Silver, Paralympics, Arnhem, Netherlands

1981: First Place, Boston Marathon

1981: Founded Magic in Motion adaptive sport equipment company

1984: Gold, Paralympics, Long Island, New York

1985: Developed "Shadow" Mono Ski

1990-1992: US Disabled Ski Team

1992: Gold, Paralympics, Albertville, France

2003: Inducted, National Disabled Ski Hall of Fame, Colorado

2009: X-Games mono-skier-X competitor

2010: Paralympics Games Ambassador, Vancouver, Canada

2011: Starred in Kurt Miller film "The Movement."

ATHLETE ADVOCATE VETERAN HERO

"Can't" is not in Jim Martinson's vocabulary. Considered the "Founding Father" of adaptive skiing, this double amputee has lead the way to victory for the disabled as both an athlete and inventor

Growing up with three brothers in Sumner, Washington, sports were a way of life. Winter weekends in the 1950s the Martinsons skied the small rope-tow areas of the Cascades. It built strong boys with a love for playing in snow.

Jim was a linebacker on his high school state championship team and even played football in college, but he dropped out after one semester with plans to be ski bum in Sun Valley. The draft and Vietnam, however, forced a detour.

June, 1968, near Da Nang, Jim's life changed forever. A land mine exploded and he lost both legs above the knee. Learning to live without legs took time; not only to

build back his strength, but his spirit too. An invitation to play wheelchair basketball got this once fearless competitor back in the game. He started racing wheelchairs in 1976, and in 1981 he won the Boston Marathon. That same year he founded Magic in Motion, an adaptive sport equipment company specializing in lightweight performance wheelchairs. He also created devices for waterskiing, tennis, golf and even rugby.

Jim traveled the world winning races but he still wasn't skiing. Then, a friend took him to nearby Snoqualmie Pass in 1985. Back on snow Jim got ideas. He used his knowledge for a better wheelchair to build a sit-ski, one with a shock and a system to give riders



DOD/PHOTO BY DONNA MILES



(U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO/STAFF SGT. DESIREE N. PALACIOS)

the freedom to get on and off the lift independently. The new design was a hit and like his "Shadow" wheelchair, it revolutionized competitive athletics for the disabled.

A three-time Paralympian, Jim medaled at both summer and winter Games. As a member of the U.S. Disabled Ski Team he won gold at the 1992 Winter Paralympics in Albertville, France. He was inducted into the National Disabled Ski Hall of Fame in Vail, Colorado, in 2003. At 63, he was the oldest competitor in the Winter X-Games.

Jim has also helped fellow Honored Members Chris Waddell, Sarah Will, and Muffy Davis to earn gold at the Paralympics as well.

Jim and his wife Colleen have four children and four grandchildren. They live in Puyallup, Washington where he continues to inspire the adaptive community by example that they can do anything ... they just do it differently.



Athlete. Advocate.

Jim Martinson Class of 2015

Congratulations on your induction into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame.

The Board of Directors Friends of American Lake Veterans Golf Course

www.veterangolf.org



Veteran. Hero.

