

State why the candidate merits election to the U.S. National Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame (limit this statement to 250 words):

A quiet, unassuming athlete, who was most comfortable throwing a fly or carrying a bow into the backcountry, Johnny Spillane made an historical mark on his sport of nordic combined winning a World Championship title and becoming one of American skiing's most decorated Olympic athletes with three medals.

Spillane grew up in Ski Town U.S.A - Steamboat Springs, Colo. Like most kids in Steamboat, he was on skis as a child and became passionate about ski jumping and cross country. During his teen years, nordic combined became a rising force in Steamboat Springs under the leadership of U.S. Ski Team coach Tom Steitz, with both Steamboat-born athletes and others coming to the mountain town to train.

Spillane, just 18, was part of a strong team that broke through with a FIS Nordic Junior World Championships team event gold medal in 1999. They teamed up again a year later to take silver.

As the team bridged up to the World Cup tour, Spillane scored a stunning gold medal at the 2003 World Championships in Italy - putting the Americans on the map and foreshadowing what was to come over the next seven years. Suddenly the entire team was elevated with Spillane's success.

Coming into the 2010 Olympics, few could have anticipated the outcome. Spillane opened with silver in the normal hill competition - the first ever nordic combined medal for the USA. He joined teammates for silver in the team event and capped off the Olympics taking silver behind teammate Bill Demong - four nordic combined medals for Team USA.

Johnny Spillane wasn't just a part of history, he was the pacesetter. His quiet work ethic and ability to engage with his teammates brought unprecedented success for himself and his team.

In chronological order by year, list the candidate's achievements:

(eg: January 12, 1965: proposed the establishment of the Professional Ski Instructors Alliance)

- 1999 FIS Junior Nordic World Championships - team gold
- 2000 FIS Junior Nordic World Championships - team silver
- 2002 U.S. Ski Jumping Championships - large hill gold
- 2003 U.S. Ski Jumping Championships - large hill gold
- 2003 10 top-10 World Cup finishes
- 2003 FIS Nordic World Championships, Val di Fiemme, Italy - sprint gold medal (first ever U.S. title in World Championship nordic event)
- 2005 World Cup podium, Trondheim, Norway
- 2006 U.S. Ski Jumping Championships, normal hill gold
- 2007 U.S. Ski Jumping Championships, normal hill gold
- 2008 World Cup podium, Kuusamo, Finland
- 2009 World Cup win, Oberhof, Germany
- 2009 U.S. Nordic Combined Championships, gold
- 2010 Olympic Winter Games, 3 silver medals
- 2010 U.S. Ski & Snowboard Nordic Combined Athlete of the Year
- 2013 Retires from U.S. Ski Team
- 2014 Inducted into Colorado Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame
- 2014 Purchases Steamboat Flyfisher, establishing himself as a businessman in his hometown

Today Has continued to raise family and run fly fishing business in Steamboat, while serving as an ambassador for nordic combined and a television commentator for NBC.

World Championship Teams (8-time)

1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013

Olympic Winter Games Teams (4-time)

1998, 2002, 2006, 2010

On one page provide additional data, anecdotes, etc. that you feel are pertinent to this nomination:

Steamboat Daily, John Russell, Oct. 2014

Johnny Spillane Takes His Place in Colorado Hall of Fame

Look back at career on occasion of 2014 induction into Colorado Ski Hall of Fame.

<https://www.steamboatpilot.com/news/johnny-spillane-take-his-place-in-colorado-ski-and-snowboard-hall-of-fame/>

Steamboat Daily, John Russell, Feb. 2010

For Steitz, Nordic team's success is personal

Former Nordic coach played significant role in team's standing

<https://www.steamboatpilot.com/news/for-steitz-nordic-teams-success-is-personal/>

Denver Post, John Meyer, Feb. 2010

Steamboat's Spillane wins nordic silver; U.S. makes history

<https://www.denverpost.com/2010/02/25/steamboats-spillane-wins-nordic-silver-u-s-makes-history/>

Denver Post, John Meyer, Feb. 2010

Steamboat's Johnny Spillane wins silver in Nordic Combined

<https://www.denverpost.com/2010/02/14/steamboats-johnny-spillane-wins-silver-in-nordic-combined/>

Please list the names and addresses of those people who are supporting this nomination (Minimum of three - limit six):

Bill Marolt

Hall of Fame Honored Member
Former CEO, U.S. Ski & Snowboard
Boulder, Colo.

This letter is written in support of Johnny Spillane being nominated and inducted into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame, because of his success as a nordic combined skier over the period of time from 1997-2013.

Johnny was a member of the most successful nordic combined teams that the United States has ever developed. He and his teammates were major players in the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Teams being best in the world in the 2010 Winter Olympics. The Nordic Combined Team won four medals in those games and Johnny won two silver individual medals and one silver in a team relay, clearly an amazing performance. In addition, he won a gold medal in the 2003 World Championships, the first gold medal in nordic skiing by an American. That performance was an indication of what he would achieve and what the nordic combined team would achieve over the next decade.

Johnny's career is one that demonstrates the total commitment necessary to be best in the world. He and his teammates began their careers together as youngsters and followed a plan that had been laid out by their coach Tom Steitz. Coach Steitz had a clear vision of what it would take to find success and the U.S. Ski Team believed in his vision. His vision took almost 15 years before it came to fruition but because of youngsters like Johnny Spillane and Johnny's pursuit of a dream the vision became a reality. Success is defined as doing the right things over a long period of time and I think that there is no better example of success than what Johnny has accomplished in his career.

He continues to be active in nordic skiing as a TV commentator and his experience and enthusiasm make nordic combined fun and interesting for fans, parents, and youngsters.

For all that Johnny Spillane has done and what his efforts have meant to so many, I wholeheartedly support his nomination and election into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,
Bill Marolt, Hall of Fame
President and CEO of USSA 1996-2014

John Meyer
Denver Post
Denver, Colo.

It is an honor for me to recommend Johnny Spillane for induction into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame, and I do so wholeheartedly as someone who had the high privilege of covering the entirety of his career.

As the longtime skiing and Olympics writer for the Denver Post, I covered U.S. nordic combined closely for more than 20 years, and I was there for all three of Johnny's Olympics. I closely followed and wrote about his achievements at world championships in Europe from my desk in Denver. I recall well the day in Vancouver when he became the first American to win an Olympic medal in nordic combined.

People wept for joy that day, including the vice president of athletics for the U.S. Ski Team, and I probably shed a few tears as well because I had witnessed the full sweep of U.S. nordic combined from worst in the world to best, getting to know everyone involved very well through my proximity to the program. The performance of that team in Vancouver ranks as one of the best memories I carry from the seven Winter Olympics I was blessed to cover.

I also recall Johnny being calm, composed and soft-spoken that day. He not only was a great athlete who made Olympic history for the U.S. -- and at the world championships, for that matter -- but he is a man of humility and character who represented his sport and Olympic ideals as well as anyone I have covered as an Olympics writer. This is a man, after all, who competed at the 2006 Olympics with a separated shoulder.

He also was the embodiment of his hometown, Steamboat Springs, which we in Colorado proudly call Ski Town USA. This is a man who saved the life of his brother in a hunting accident, which he was able to do because of the fitness and coolness under pressure that made him such a successful athlete.

You are certainly aware that he was the first American to claim world championships gold in a nordic sport, and that he was the first American to win an Olympic medal in nordic combined. But it's crucial to remember that he played a key role in U.S. nordic combined going from worst to best which culminated in Vancouver, raising the profile of an obscure but beautiful ski discipline that deserves to be more appreciated in America's ski culture than it is.

I urge you to make him a member of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame because he richly deserves it.

Sincerely,

John Meyer
Covering skiing, mountaineering and endurance sports since the 1980s
The Denver Post

June 01, 2019

To Members of the Nominating Committee for the US Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame:

My name is Dave Jarrett and I was a Nordic Combined athlete and the Head Coach of the US Nordic Combined Team. I am writing on behalf of my former USST teammate and athlete that I coached, Johnny Spillane. Johnny was one of the hardest working and dedicated athletes I coached. Not only is Johnny one of the most decorated Nordic Combined skiers in the history of the sport his also fantastic father and community role model. As an athlete, Johnny's results opened the door for upcoming generations in the USA to know that winning on the biggest stage is possible for US Nordic Combined athletes.

I would like to submit Johnny Spillane's name for submission in the US Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. His accomplishments and representation of the US Skiing make him a deserving candidate.

Thank you for your time, support and consideration of Johnny Spillane.

Sincerely,



Please provide a list of sources for visual material that can be used at the candidate's induction presentation:

Wide range of photo and video assets would be available.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "L. K. D.", written in a cursive style.

Signature of nominator

Mail completed nomination form to: U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 191, Ishpeming, MI 49849 or email to: administrator@skihall.com.



