



Gary is pictured in the top right.

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## 2016 DAVID DOOLITTLE MEMORIAL CUP AWARDED TO GARY L. WALKER II

Every year, the Austin Marathon and Half Marathon® presents thousands of awards to participants, volunteers and sponsors. From the coveted winner's trophy to the finisher's medal to the treasured age-group awards, the Austin Marathon recognizes achievement in its many forms.

The highest honor awarded by the Austin Marathon is the David Doolittle Memorial Cup. Named for the late founder of the Austin Marathon, David Doolittle, the Doolittle Cup is awarded to a person who has demonstrated the ideals that David himself exemplified in his lifetime. As the Vice President of Human Resources at Motorola and a lifetime runner, David valued personal commitment, community involvement, family and running. But above all, David placed a high value on a sense of purpose and being a 'force for good'.

Past recipients of the Doolittle Cup include running luminaries like the founder of the St. James Missions 5K, the Reverend Robert Clemons, Marathon Kids® founder Kay Morris, former Austin Fit coach Debra Saleny and US Air Force fighter pilot, Maj. Phillip "Snag" Johnston, who organized an Austin Marathon 'satellite run' in an active combat zone in Afghanistan and Brain Power 5K race director and cancer survivor, Kelly Bollinger.

This year's recipient personifies compassion and a deep sense of purpose and personal commitment to the Austin community. Gary L. Walker II may be better known to many as a talented and highly acclaimed special effects designer and producer who has contributed to the success of numerous major motion-pictures including Academy Award-winning "Apollo-13" (1995), Sundance Film Festival award winner "Teeth" (2008), "Spy Kids-2: The Island of Lost Dreams" (2002), "Free Willy-3" (1997), "Jumping Off Bridges" (2005) and more recently, "The Party is Over" and "Harbinger" (2015).

What may be less well-known is that Gary is also an accomplished marathoner who shares his expertise and love of marathon running by coaching others through his "Team FX" to benefit the Austin Children's Shelter. For nearly 11 years, Gary has been an ambassador of the sport and personally mentored over 220 runners to reach the finish line of the Austin Marathon and Half Marathon. He recruits sponsors. He organizes meeting locations. He scouts training run courses. He motivates and inspires. He helps runners through the highs and lows that are part of every runner's journey. Along the way, Team FX, has quietly raised over \$271,000 to help the shelter in accomplishing its mission. Gary has proven himself to be a truly great coach and a tireless fundraiser and deeply committed advocate for Austin's battered, abused and neglected children and their families. His remarkable ability to rally others to his cause on behalf of the Austin Children's Shelter has brought the shelter's important work into sharp focus and brings great credit to him, Team FX and the entire Austin community.

The Organizing Committee of the Austin Marathon and Half Marathon is proud to recognize Gary L. Walker II, as the most worthy recipient of the 2016 Doolittle Memorial Cup and he will be recognized at a pre-race reception and again on race day.