



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **48 States Represented at Flying Pig Marathon** *Cincinnati Mayor Challenges Dakotas to Join*

**CINCINNATI, OH** (March 5, 2003) – With the registration last week of a marathon runner from Delaware, the Cincinnati Flying Pig Marathon now includes representatives from 48 states. The holdouts? North and South Dakota. Because Cincinnati wants everyone in the country to be part of the “longest running show in town,” Cincinnati Mayor Charlie Luken is personally challenging the mayors of three cities in North Dakota, and two in South Dakota, to get involved.

“Mayors always seem to be running for re-election,” Mayor Luken said. “Now it’s time for pork-barrel politics to make a difference and have those mayors run in our Flying Pig Marathon.” Mayor Luken can make that challenge: He ran a relay leg of the Marathon in 2000.

Mayor Luken is offering the challenge to Fargo, N.D. Mayor Bruce W. Furness, Bismarck, N.D. Mayor John Warford, Minot, N.D. Mayor Curt Zimbelman, Sioux Falls, S.D. Mayor Dave Munson and Rapid City, S.D. Mayor Jerry Munson. If the mayors themselves aren’t ready to run, Mayor Luken says he’ll consider a representative from the mayor’s office as an acceptable substitute.

Along with representatives from 48 states, the Cincinnati Flying Pig Marathon also will welcome runners from seven other countries, including Great Britain, Finland and Japan to the May 4th race.

Registration is filling up fast for the full marathon, the Outback 2-person relay, the Ernst & Young 4-person relay, and the new, Papa John’s 10K. The race weekend includes the 2003 Bob Roncker’s Running Spot Health and Fitness Expo, the Kahn’s Flying Piglet Kids’ Fun Run & Festival presented by the Cincinnati Enquirer on Saturday, the traditional runner’s Pasta Party Saturday night and the Victory Party along Cincinnati’s riverfront after the race. Pampers is joining the Flying Pig Marathon this year as a sponsor for the Piglet, and Michelob Ultra as a Victory Party sponsor.

Presenting sponsors are CoActive Marketing Group, Mercy Health Partners and Paycor. Gold sponsors are Asics, the City of Cincinnati, City Dash and Clif Bar. Media sponsors are the Cincinnati Business Courier, the Cincinnati Enquirer, WLWT-TV, WRRM-FM, WYGY-FM, WMOJ-FM and ChannelCincinnati.com, along with the Downtowner and Runner’s World. Supporting sponsors are Alaskan Falls, Cohen, Todd, Kite & Stanford, LLC, Game Day Communications, Michelob Ultra, Pampers, Panera Bread, Running Network, and Zumbiel.

For more information on the Cincinnati Flying Pig Marathon, contact the Marathon office at (513) 721-PIGS or visit the web site at [www.flyingpigmarathon.com](http://www.flyingpigmarathon.com).