

NOMINATION FORM

For

HONORED MEMBERSHIP

In The

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD HALL OF FAME

Candidate's Name: Don Henderson

Date & Place of Birth: Berlin, New Hampshire B. 1924

Address of Candidate: 187 Bragg Hill Road Fairlee, Vermont 05054

Telephone Number: (802) 222-7003

Email: _____

Is the candidate still living? If not, provide date and place of death: Yes

Nominator information:

Name: Sam Stout

Address: 130 Westerly Terrace Hartford, CT 06195

Telephone Number: (860) 690-9059

Email: stoutsd@yahoo.com

For what category are you nominating this candidate?

Athlete: _____

Snowsports Builder: _____

Heritage: ✓

(See appendix one at the end of this form for category definitions)

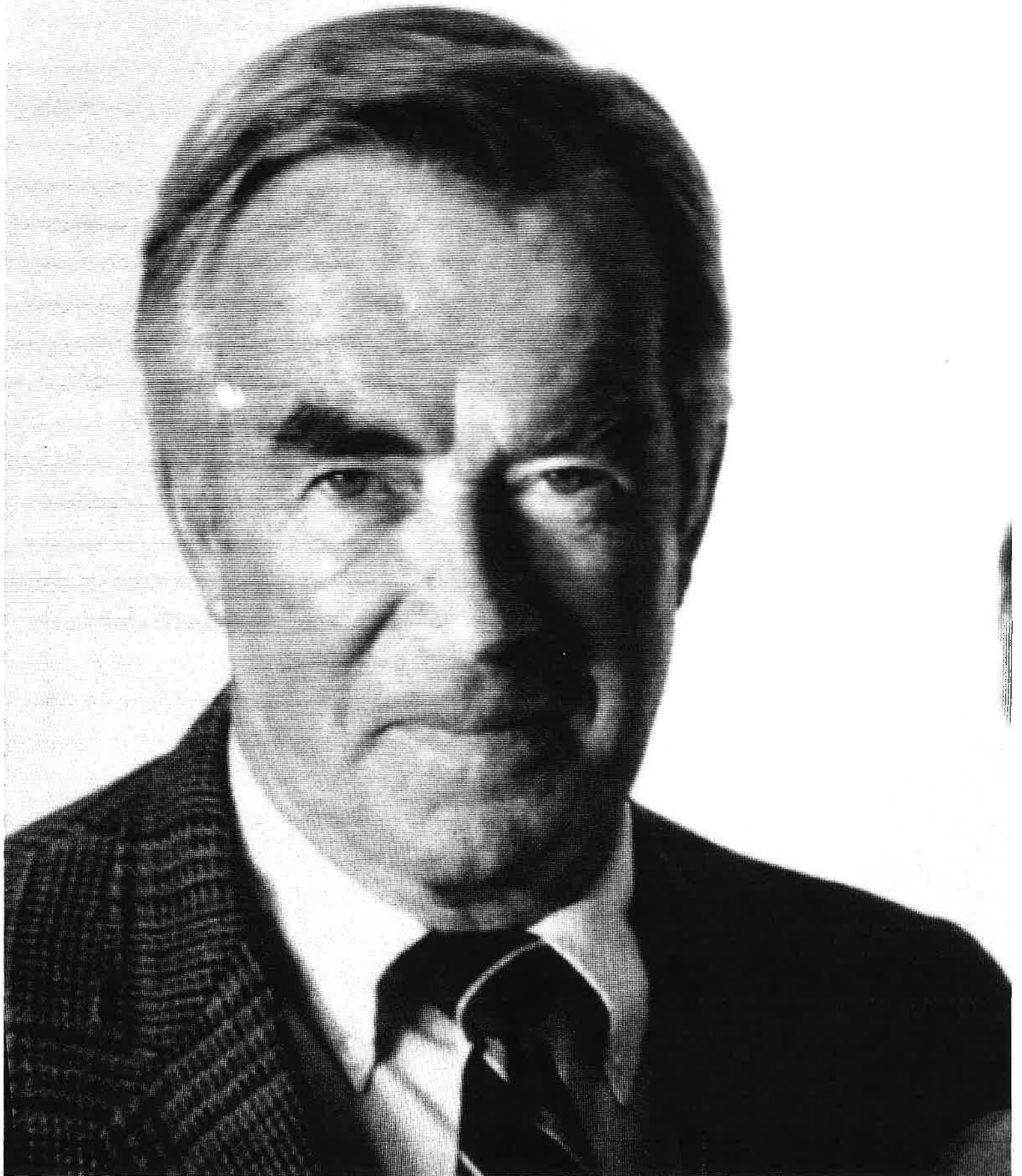
An 8 x 10 photograph of the candidate must be supplied: ✓

To the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame Selection Committee:

As a member of the Selection Committee, I would like to sponsor the nomination of Don Henderson to the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame in the Heritage Category. I think the ensuing information on the nomination form makes it clear that Don Henderson is a viable candidate for admission, and he has my full support.

Bill McCollom

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill".



State why the candidate merits election to the U.S. National Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame

Don Henderson was an inspirational coach, teacher, and a true pioneer of competitive skiing throughout his 39 years of coaching and teaching at Holderness School, a private, secondary school in Plymouth, NH. In summary, he grew up in the mill town of Berlin, NH; was wounded while with the 10th Mountain Division in World War II; enrolled at Middlebury College where he skied on its National Championship team in 1948; earned graduate degrees in history from Harvard and the University of London; was twice named a Fulbright Scholar; and then arrived at Holderness School in the fall of 1951. He instilled that same focus and dedication that propelled him through these challenges to his students and athletes for the next 39 years as a legendary teacher and coach. The following pages will outline his remarkable legacy and his profound influence on the direction of competitive skiing in this country.

In addition to his years of dedication to Holderness School, he also took time off to coach the U.S. Olympic Team at Innsbruck, Austria with Bob Beattie in 1964 and then again at the World Championships in Val Gardena, Italy in 1970, where he was head coach. His success in working with young athletes involved so much more than simple technical tips. It came as a result of building relationships; treating athletes as individuals; finding individual sources of motivation; demonstrating the value of commitment and hard work.

The end result was the representation of Holderness School in eight consecutive Olympic Games by nine different athletes, multiple prep school championship titles, a steady stream of collegiate All-Americans and U.S. Ski Team members, and the creation of a model of combining ski training and academics that would lead to the creation of the ski academies in the early 1970s. He could be blunt and honest to a fault, but his compassion for his students and athletes never wavered.

Candidate's achievements in chronological order:

1942 – Graduated from high school in Berlin, NH, where in competed in all four events.

1942 – Joined the Army and was sent to Camp Hale, Colorado for training in the Tenth Mountain Division.

1944 – Shipped to Italy, where the Tenth Mountain Division encountered some of the most vicious fighting of the war.

1945 – Hit by a shell, which sent shrapnel into his hand and both legs, leaving him with a permanent limp. He was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star Awards.

1946 – Enrolled at Middlebury College.

1948 – Captained the National Collegiate Championships Ski Team, and during his collegiate career, won events in all four skiing disciplines.

1948 to 1951 – Earned master's degree in history from Harvard, attended the University of London and was twice named a Fulbright Scholar.

1951 – Started teaching and coaching at Holderness School in Plymouth, NH.

1964 – Coached the U.S. Olympic Ski Team at Innsbruck, Austria.

1970 – Named Head Coach for the U.S. Ski Team at the World Championships in Val Gardena, Italy.

1990 – Retired from teaching and coaching at Holderness School.

1991 to Present – Lives in Fairlee, Vermont and even at age 92 tries to stay active through daily exercise, including skiing up to this past year.

Additional data, anecdotes pertinent to the nomination:

Don Henderson arrived at Holderness School in Plymouth, NH in the fall of 1951 as a young history teacher and ski coach. It didn't take long before his commitment to the success of his students and athletes started a transformative process. Soon Holderness became a perennial prep school skiing powerhouse, winning numerous Eastern Championship titles. The first came in 1958 and many other titles followed in multiple succession. In the early years Henderson took charge of clearing a small hill, serviced by a rope tow, building a ski jump, and carving out cross-country trails, which remain some of the best in the East.

The school resources evolved with partnerships with Waterville Valley and Cannon Mountain for training in the late '60s, and in short order, the school had cemented a well-earned reputation as one of the strongest four-event programs in the country. The list of Olympians, U.S. Ski Team members, and NCAA Division I All-Americans coached by Henderson is long and storied. (A listing of notable athletes, coached by Henderson from 1955 through 1981 is included on a separate page.) Through one remarkable span of eight consecutive Olympic Games from 1956 to 1984, Holderness School claimed representation by nine athletes. Henderson proved that with commitment and focus, traditional academics could be combined with international athletic success. That tradition, established under Henderson, still is an integral component of the culture of the school. With a current enrollment of approximately 300 students, half of all students at Holderness participate in one of the eight snow sports programs, with 114 competing in alpine and Nordic skiing.

Henderson's athletes still tell stories of clearing brush off the ski hill; running through the woods with Henderson shouting encouragement; watching him test the ski jump before a training session; and looking out the back window of the ski team van to see the equipment trailer bouncing off the frost-heaves. Most could also recall being scolded on grammatical errors and being put in their place with a few well-chosen words after an ill-conceived wisecrack. These were stories of adventure, humor, achievement, and discovering the power of confidence. He left an indelible mark on all he met in the classroom and on the ski hill. Whether it was the dry wit, piercing eye contact, the words of encouragement, the technical input, or just knowing he was there to look out for you, Henderson exerted a profound influence. He launched wave after wave of competitive skiers, alpine and Nordic, into the international and collegiate circuits, as well as into influential positions in the industry and coaching ranks. Thanks to Henderson, all were well equipped for success.

**Olympians, U.S. Ski Team, and DI All-Americans coached by Don Henderson
1955-81**

Dick Taylor '55 (1959 U.S. Nordic Combined Team, 1988 Olympic Nordic Coach)

Don Stephenson '55 (1959 U.S. Nordic Combined Team)

Gordie Eaton '58 (1960, 1964 U.S. Olympic Teams, U.S. alpine coach 1965-1970)

Charlie Kellogg '58 (1960 U.S. Olympic Nordic Team)

John Clough '59 (1960 U.S. Alpine Team, 1970 World Championships coach)

Dennis Donahue '62 (1972, 1976 U.S. Olympic biathlon team; 1980 Technical Director
and Assistant Chief of Competition for U.S. Biathlon)

Ned Gillete '63 (1968 U.S. Nordic Team)

Terry Morse '64 (1972 U.S. Olympic biathlon team)

Bill McCollom '64 (1967 All-American Alpine Middlebury College)

Paul Reed '66 (1970 All-American Alpine Middlebury College)

Steve Lathrop '69 (1970 U.S. Alpine World Championships Team)

Tyler Palmer '69 (1972 U.S. Olympic Alpine Team)

Terry Palmer '69 (1972 U.S. Olympic Alpine Team)

Chris Brown '70 (All-American Alpine UVM)

Geoff Bruce '71 (1972-79 U.S. Alpine Team)

Neal McNealus '71 (1975 U.S. Alpine Team; All-American Alpine UVM)

Walter Malmquist '74 (1974 – 81 U.S. Nordic Team; 1976, 1980 U.S. Olympic Nordic
Combined Team)

Eva Pfosi Merriman '81 (1979-84 U.S. Alpine Team; 1987 NCAA Slalom Champion
Dartmouth)

Wendy Reeves '81 (1989-92 U.S. Nordic Team)

Note: From 1980 to 2017, Holderness School has produced an additional 10 U.S. Ski
Team members, 14 Division I NCAA All-Americans, and 4 Olympians.

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

Gordon Eaton
1788 Halladay Road
Middlebury, VT 05753

Phil Peck, Headmaster
The Holderness School
PO Box 1879
Plymouth, NH 03264

Dennis Donahue
Thetford, Vermont

John Clough
PO Box 296
Elkins, NH 03233

Bill Clough
PO Box 1997
New London, NH 03257

Terry Morse
PO Box 367
Moab, UT 84532

John C. Dovey
PO Box 2372
Ketchum, ID 83340

Jim Page
17 Via Loma
Manitou Springs, Colo 80829-2434

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

Joann Wernig
Director of Archives
The Holderness School
PO Box 1879
Plymouth, NH 03245



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: _____

Gordon Eaton
1788 Halladay Road
Middlebury, Vermont 05753



Don Henderson is a winner in life and in sport. He had, and frankly still has, all the great qualities necessary for such a claim. Passion, determination, focus, preparation along with compassion and dedication to those around him.

Consider growing up in the mill town of Berlin, NH in the 1930's and simply planning on going to work at the mill for a life time job. WWII starts and this 18 year old is off to Camp Hale, Colorado to train for the 10th Mt. Division. Sent to Italy in 1944 pushing the Germans out of Italy in some of the most vicious and ugly battles of the war.

Suffering a sever leg wound that would leave him with a noticeable limp to this very day. Awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star

Then enroll at Middlebury as a below average student. Go on to graduate with honors, Masters Degree in History from Harvard, twice a Fulbright Scholar and then a brilliant teaching career at Holderness School for 36 years.

While at Middlebury as a ski racer, he won in all events, Downhill, Slalom, Jumping and Cross Country.

I was fortunate to have Don as my coach at Holderness, 1957-58. I have always been passionate about skiing, but as regards determination, focus and preparation, I needed a lot of help. Don provided this in his classroom, on the hill and the way he led his life.

His compassion showed up in the way he worked with each of his student/athletes. As I mentioned earlier, he was not a great student starting a Middlebury. He recognized that every student had different issues and problems and Don would work with each of us quietly and thoughtfully.

Another quality that stood out for me was the authenticity on Don Henderson. We all knew, in general, his life story. I will not say we understood the horror of the war experience but he was held in great respect. We also knew that this is where he wanted to be. Working with young people, challenging their hearts, minds and bodies.

Don was very confident in all of his life choice's and yet he was very self-effacing. He has lived his life with joy and gusto. For those of us who had the pleasure of his time and wisdom, we would consider him a great treasure and we are much the better because of that time.

I think Don qualifies both as a ski racer and a coach.



Don Henderson

Nominee for US Ski Hall of Fame

I support the nomination of Don Henderson for the US Ski Hall of Fame. My association with Don covers two periods and almost three decades, first as a student at the Holderness School where Don was a history teacher and ski coach, and second as a teacher myself with Don at Holderness. Education was important to Don, and as a ski coach he was an educator in the broadest sense.

In US History class, Don was an enthusiastic and demanding teacher, challenging students to not only attend to the basic student responsibilities but also to strive to excel. His coaching style was no different, with perhaps more genuine physical exuberance on Don's part because he loved to ski. Practices were never dull. Members of the Holderness team at the time were obligated to do all four events; Don did all four events as well with us. Traveling to all day four event competitions in an 8 passenger station wagon towing a trailer loaded with 4 pairs of skis for each athlete was an adventure filled with good cheer and conversation. This spirit permeated the whole team from the best to the beginning racers. Skiing for Holderness and Don Henderson was a privilege. Getting to the top ranks on the team was very competitive.

With such a model coach as Don Henderson, skiers looked at Holderness as a school where one could receive an excellent secondary education and ski with the best. Don built this culture from the beginning and he demonstrated it by example and by living it himself. Several Holderness graduates (maybe 8 – 10) who were coached by Don Henderson became ski sport Olympians in alpine, nordic, and biathlon. I, for one, was motivated by the lessons learned from Don – hard work, love of sport, intellectual curiosity, demand for excellence, attention to the details, and tenacity (don't give up). Importantly, Don's coaching was not for Don; it was definitely for the student skiers. Clearly, Don took great pleasure and pride in his work and play, passing on tremendous enthusiasm for skiing with the recognition great effort was necessary to get to the top, in skiing or history class.

Don was a leading teacher/coach of his time with experiences and core values that resonated with many athletes, coaches, parents. He was highly regarded by his peers, and truly respected by his athletes. He is highly deserving of induction to the US Ski Hall of Fame.

Dennis Donahue
Thetford, VT
Holderness '62
Winter Olympics Biathlon, '72, '76
Ford Sayre XC Coach 1985 - present

Terry Morse
PO Box 367
Moab, Utah 84532

To Whom it May Concern

Of all the people I can think of no one deserves to enter the Ski Hall of Fame more than Don Henderson. There are many who have been honored to be installed in the Institution in august recognition their contribution to the sport and the industry. Few, if any, who have contributed to the sport in the way in which Don Henderson has.

At Holderness School where Don was both history teacher and ski coach, he made it a point of instilling in those he taught and coached the importance of becoming well rounded individuals who could think critically and who would come to be defined by what they did with their passion and outside of their passion for skiing. Don embodies the ancient Greek philosophy of development of the intellect as well as development of the physical body. He instilled in his student-athletes the confidence to pursue whatever goals they set for themselves with his unique ability to teach both on and off the slope. This unique combination of being a truly brilliant educator and a wonderfully supporting and inspirational ski coach imprinted itself on the lives of all those who had the good fortune to have access to his talents.

As a student and skier at Holderness honored to be one of Don's "projects" I can categorically state with out reservation that his influence on both my education and skiing was life changing and life directing. He is a unique individual in the skiing world as anyone who knows Don, his contribution to the sport and his dedication to helping young people mature both in and outside the sport of skiing will attest to, he is fully deserving to be nominated into the Ski Hall of Fame.

In actuality, in retrospect, it is amazing to me that he has not already been inducted. I entreat upon the nominating committee to correct this oversight by voting to induct Don Henderson into the Ski Hall of Fame this year.

Respectfully,

Terry Morse

Student Holderness School (1961-1964)

US Olympian (1972)
Biathlon
Sapporo, Japan