



**PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

March 22, 2016

Contact: Bob O'Hara at [bobscanoe@comcast.net](mailto:bobscanoe@comcast.net)

**Twelve Legendary Minnesota Nordic Skiers to Receive Awards**

The Minnesota Nordic Ski Association (MNSA) will celebrate its 15-year anniversary and honor 12 individuals with the Minnesota Nordic Skiing Lifetime Achievement Award during an awards banquet on Saturday, April 9, 2016 at the Mora Vasaloppet Nordic Center in Mora, Minnesota. 2016 Nordic World Cup skier and Minnesota Native Jessie Diggins will be the keynote speaker.

The Minnesota Nordic Skiing Lifetime Achievement Award is given annually to an individual who has contributed significantly to the advancement of Nordic skiing in Minnesota. Bob Montebello, long-time past Bemidji Area Cross Country Ski Club Trail Administrator and currently the oldest active ski trail groomer in North America will receive the 2016 Minnesota Nordic Skiing Lifetime Achievement Award.

MNSA will posthumously honor 11 individuals with the Minnesota Nordic Skiing Lifetime Achievement Legacy Award. MNSA recently established the Lifetime Achievement Legacy Award to recognize and honor deserving individuals, who either passed away before the award was established in 2006 or died unexpectedly after 2006.

The 11 individuals who will be honored as inaugural Legacy inductees are:

John Burton – Deephaven	Al Waverek - Avon	Nikolai Anikin – Duluth
Robin Baker – Cohasset	Tim Knopp – Roseville	Earle Dickinson - Buena Vista (Bemidji)
Charlie Banks - Duluth	Jinny McWethy – Edina	Brother Jerome Rademacher – Winona
Toni St. Pierre – Hopkins	Don Wolter – Plymouth	

Schedule:

1:30pm – Social hour

2:30pm – Jessie Diggins keynote presentation

3:30pm – Award presentation

Seating is limited, so reservations are required. Please RSVP to Bob O'Hara at [bobscanoe@comcast.net](mailto:bobscanoe@comcast.net) or (952) 927-0874 by April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

XXX