

Sample letter for George Heasley Nomination to Sports Hall of Fame

All letters of recommendation should be e-mailed to:
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Sample Letter Do not Copy Exactly

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Museum
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I am writing to endorse the Nomination of George Heasley to the Winter Sports Hall of Fame. He was nominated a few years back for his contributions to organized skiing. He also was active in amateur hockey in the time before organized rinks were available.

George was a pre-war draftee in the United States Army whose term was extended by the attack on Pearl Harbor. After discharge he returned home to Manor, PA and looking for some winter activity organized an amateur hockey team that was dependent upon nature for opportunities to play games. After a couple of years, he saw a note in the paper about skiing at Laurel Mountain. He called his hockey team mates together and they decided to give it a try. Together they went to laurel Mountain and began to ski.

The following year, George and his teammates decided to try skiing at Seven Springs. He became a regular and often assisted the ski patrol in sweeping the slopes when they were short handed. In 1956, he answered an ad in the paper to join Bill Tilley in establishing a new ski club in Western Pennsylvania. George called together his old teammates and a few others to a meeting at his farm in an old chicken coop. Westmoreland Ski Club was born. George pulled out the logo he designed for the Manor Red Birds and it became the emblem of Westmoreland.

Using his connections at Bushy Run State Park, he made arrangements for a dry ski clinic sponsored by Westmoreland. These clinics brought in new members and the club grew. A few years later, George was instrumental in the formation of Mon Valley Ski Club. John Dudas and Pat Dodaro attended a clinic and became interested in skiing. They distance from Monesson to Manor deterred them from joining Westmoreland and George encouraged them form their own club, offering suggestions about how to organize. A year later he would repeat his performance for the formation of Allegheny Valley Ski Club in New Kensington.

As a regular at Seven Springs, he arranged for the club to rent an old duck pen as a lodge at the Springs. When Seven Spring expanded, Westmoreland had to search for a new home. After two years of renting summer cottages not exactly equipped for winter use, the club decided to buy land and erect a lodge. George drew up plans and led the way for an all volunteer crew to build an AFrame which is still in use today.

George has always been the man behind the scenes. Skiing safely was always a priority. He encouraged the formation of clubs and urged people to take lessons. He supported the U.S. Ski team in their fund raising drives. He helped to organize a safety patrol at Seven Springs to assist the Ski Patrol in patrolling merge points on the slopes.

George has been a dedicated proponent of organized skiing all of his life.

Sincerely,