



Dr. Harry H. Briggs, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 1997



Personal Website (None known)

Dr. Harry H. Briggs was inspired to be a marathon swimmer after a chance meeting with Honoree Gertrude Ederle on an ocean liner from New York to Southampton when he was 16 in 1937. He was the first to swim from Corsica to Sardinia in 1955 and was the first to complete a swim across Lake Erie (on his 3rd attempt) in 1957 in 35 hours and 55 minutes. This led to considerable publicity for he and the sport: an appearance on the “Ed Sullivan Show”, an article by Gay Talese in The New York Times and a profile in Sports Illustrated magazine. A political science instructor known as “The Paddling Professor”, he became the first person to swim in 1962 19 miles across and in 1963 58 km (36 miles) around Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire, USA. Dr. Briggs completed 43 marathon swims over the course of his career. At the age of 76, he swam 16 km (10 miles) across Lake Sunapee as a fundraiser and continued to do fundraising open water swims into his 90s.

[Expanded Biography \(Openwaterpedia\)](#)

[Long Swims Database \(Marathon Swimmers Federation\)](#)