



William "Bill" Goll, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 2011



Personal Website (None known)

William "Bill" Goll was born about 1908, finished second in the 1930 Manhattan Island Marathon Swim and is seen as a true pioneer in the sport of marathon swimming. Over the course of his varied and three-decade career, Bill participated in nine Canadian National Exhibition swims, one of the most prestigious marathon swims of its era, between 1931 and 1954 with many top five finishes. In the later stages of his career, Bill also participated in at least five 22.5-mile swims around Atlantic City in New Jersey between 1954 and 1959, always finishing in the top 10, despite being between 47 and 51 years old. To make ends meet, he traveled as a high diver with a carnival during the Great Depression between 1935-1939. Truly an early pioneer and a rare one, doubling as a high diver. He was selected under a label "Pioneer", however in 2017 the Executive Committee agreed that this was simply a selection mechanism and he is therefore listed an Honor Swimmer.

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

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