

Thank you Tim Estiloz for sharing your talent & memories



Sad News

Johnny Johns – Feb. 20, 2026

Rest in peace, Johnny Johns



Johnny Johns, a U.S. champion in pairs and ice dance in the 1970s and a longtime, beloved World and Olympic coach, passed away on Feb. 20, 2026, following complications from knee surgery. He was 74.

In 1973, Johns competed at the U.S. Championships in both the ice dance and pairs disciplines, a feat rarely undertaken at such a high level. That year, he earned the bronze medal in pairs with partner Emily Benenson and won the title

in ice dance with partner Mary Campbell.

Johns finished his ice dance career at the 1973 World Championships with a career-best sixth-place finish.

As a pairs skater, he won U.S. titles with Melissa Militano in 1974 and 1975. He was a World Team member from 1971-75, with a career-best sixth-place finish at the 1975 World Championships.

Johns was also an accomplished singles skater during this time and was known for being able to rotate a double Axel in both directions.

He attended traditional schools during his skating career and studied at the University of Delaware in the early 1970s while under the tutelage of his coach, Ron Ludington.

Johns was a featured performer with the **Ice Capades** from 1976-79.

Following a successful career as a skater, Johns embarked on a coaching career that spanned more than 35 years. He spent 27 years at the Detroit Skating Club before moving to the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton, Michigan, in 2006, and then to Hertz Arena in Estero, Florida, in January 2019.

Johns' teams included 1997 World Junior pairs champions and 1999 U.S. senior pairs champions Danielle and Steve Hartsell; 2006 World and Olympic pairs skaters Marcy Hinzmann and Aaron Parchem; and 2007 U.S. senior pairs champions Brooke Castile and Benjamin Okolski.

"Johnny saw things in people and brought out the best in them," said Mitch Moyer, who coached with Johns from 1988 to 2006. "He made it fun to skate. He kept his smile, kept you laughing. He always had a way of keeping things in perspective. The skaters who worked with him loved him."

"He was more than just a coach. He believed in me when I didn't believe in myself and helped me rise to my full potential," U.S. Olympian and Johns' student Marcy Hinzmann (Simpson) said. "It wasn't more reps, it wasn't training harder. It was training smarter, actually enjoying the process, and finding something to be grateful for. I will miss him dearly. My whole family will; he was so good to us."

Later in his career, Johns worked with multiple World and Olympic champion ice dancers alongside Marina Zoueva, his longtime partner in coaching and in life.

"Johnny brought a unique balance of expertise and professionalism at the highest level, as well as a passion and joy for the everyday and a sense of humor that always brightened the atmosphere in the arena," Zoueva said. "With Johnny, we always worked hard but laughed even harder. The joy he shared with us all will be terribly missed."

Johns is survived by Zoueva, his daughter, Jillian Johns (Pounders); Jillian's husband, Scott Pounders; and their sons, Phoenix and Ozzy.

Tommy Thompson – March 18, 2013 (published as a memory)

George Edward "Tommy" Thompson III of Iowa City passed away Monday, March 18, 2013, at his home. Online condolences can be sent to his family through the Web at www.gayandciha.com.

Tommy was born Oct. 13, 1926, in Waterloo, Iowa, son of George Edward II and Maria "Mary" (Koloc) Thompson. He married Charlotte K Thompson on June 6, 1950, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Iowa City. He and K raised their two children, Tami and Stephen in Iowa City.

Tommy was an avid Iowa Hawkeye fan, attending 751 football games since his first game in 1938. He was a great supporter of the Iowa wrestling team and crafted numerous championship belt buckles over the years. Tommy loved Hawkeye athletics, football, basketball and wrestling! He was inducted as an honorary letterman in 1986.

Tommy grew up and attended Catholic School in Cedar Rapids. He joined the **Ice Capades** in his late teens, skating until a fall that broke his shoulder put an end to his skating career. After skating, Tommy served stateside in the U.S. Navy as a pharmacist mate during World War II.

He was a pro golfer and attempted to join the pro tour. In the early 1950s, Tommy and K owned and ran Tommy's Golf Range next to the Iowa City Airport until a required airport expansion forced their closing.

Tommy joined the Cherry Burrell Corp. in Cedar Rapids as a toolmaker/welder and worked with them until his retirement in the early 1990s.

Tommy is survived by his two children, Stephen Thompson and his wife, Molly (Shannon), of Eagle River, Alaska and Tami Rinehart and her husband, Don, of New River, Ariz.; four grandchildren, Michael Thompson, Stephanie Powell and husband Edward, Christopher

Rinehart and Nicole Irving and husband Nicholas; two great-grandchildren, Lawrence "Holden" and Shayla Powell; his sister, Patricia Eichenberg of Albuquerque, N.M.; as well as many nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and wife, Charlotte K Thompson (Fisk) in 2001.

Gay & Ciha Funeral and Cremation Service in Iowa City is caring for Tommy's family and his services.

Published March 21, 2013 in The Gazette

Can you believe it?

Tourist arrested for allegedly torturing flamingo at the Flamingo Las Vegas



LAS VEGAS (KABC) -- Las Vegas Metro Police released body camera video of an incident in which a man is accused of stealing a flamingo after entering its habitat at the Flamingo Las Vegas hotel.

Canadian tourist Mitchell Fairbairn is accused of capturing and torturing the flamingo at the hotel where he was staying earlier this month.

The videos show hotel employees speaking with officers about the incident.

According to the video, a guest not related to the incident found the bird bleeding in a hallway. The flamingo was later returned to the hotel's wildlife habitat.

Officers said they went to Fairbairn's room, where they reported finding feathers and "a bad smell."

Attorneys say Fairbairn faces up to four years in prison. He is scheduled to return to court in May.

<https://www.8newsnow.com/crime/las-vegas-police-tourist-stole-injured-flamingo-from-iconic-strip-hotel/>

Flamingo Update

In case you were wondering what happened.....



"Peachy," the 27-year-old male flamingo who was seriously injured by a Canadian tourist earlier this month, is back in the Flamingo Las Vegas wildlife habitat and is recovering well after receiving veterinary care.

Two other flamingos who were injured during the attack have also been treated and seem to be doing fine.

The habitat remains open with the full flock of Chilean flamingos visible, but with enhanced security.

Video of the Month

Did anyone remember watching this?

1992 Superbowl – Winter Magic with Dorothy Hamill & Brian Boitano -



The 1992 Super Bowl XXVI halftime show, titled "Winter Magic," is remembered as a major, low-rated disaster that directly forced the NFL to change its approach to halftime entertainment. It was perceived as a "cheesy" and dull holiday-style special that caused millions of viewers to switch channels, leading to a massive counter-programming success by a rival network.

The performance was designed to showcase Minnesota's winter theme, featuring a bizarre mix of 35-piece snowflake drill teams, dancing snowmen, giant inflatable snowmen, rollerbladers, and a rapping "Do the Frosty" song.

<https://youtu.be/sngIzwDWdTM?si=gQmQgxwB56dAbOom>

Upcoming Events

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CELEBRATING THE JOY
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Ice Theatre of New York, Inc[®]
presents

<https://www.icetheatre.org/>

Ticket and information at [icetheatre.org/tickets](https://www.icetheatre.org/tickets)

OLYMPIC ARTIST SERIES

 A message from our Founder & Artistic Director, Moira North:

Special Announcement!

Over the last 17 days of the **Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympic Games**, we have reflected joyfully on some of the most beautiful partnerships **Ice Theatre of New York** has shared with Olympic artists through this editorial series. But as much fun as that's been, the future is even *more* exciting.

So it is with great enthusiasm that I announce Ice Theatre of New York's 2026 honoree: **Nathan Chen**, the 2022 Team USA Olympic gold medalist!



Nathan Chen will be honored at our annual gala on May 4th, and [you are cordially invited](#) to join us for a dazzling evening celebrating artistry, athleticism, and the skating community.

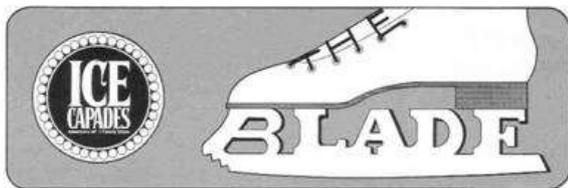
Nathan has shared a longtime association with us, his first coach, **Stephane Grosscup**, was an early ITNY performer. Stephane was the recipient of our 2018 alumni award and will be a co-chair of our upcoming gala!

We are thrilled to welcome Nathan Chen to our Hall of Honorees!

Moira North

Attend the 2026 Gala honoring Nathan Chen

<https://givebutter.com/ITNY26Gala>



The website, www.icecapadestheblade.com has been revamped and more information has been added. If you have something to add, please send them.

Look here for **2025 Ice Capades Reunion** information, including reunion pictures

Cast, Precision & Production Pictures – Relive some memories.

Past reunion Pictures – Check them out for some you may have missed.

Rosters – Looking for someone or remembering who you skated with in the show?

Video links – have been collecting skating 'You Tube' links from the early years.

Program Covers – we had the most beautiful covers

Past Issues of The Blade – just in case you missed an issue

Past Reunion Pictures – relive the times you attended the reunions

In Memorium – remembering those who have left us too soon

Check it out!

If you know if someone who would like to receive The Blade, please send me their email address or if you would like to be removed from receiving The Blade, please type 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

Email me directly at gspoden@rogers.com