THE JOHN JENKINS
SPORTS PASSION AWARD

The US Luge Association is proud to offer the ***Sports Passion Award*** in memory of ***John Jenkins***, an individual who played a prominent role in the raising of several generations of American lugers dating back to the late 1970's. John was a beacon – perhaps a bit unorthodox, but a beacon nonetheless – during a period marked by a lack of focus and direction for the sport.

For those not having the pleasure of knowing John, he was the founder of the Adirondack Luge Club, and as such was responsible for a wide spectrum of support services for all luge athletes. From arranging training times, to making food, to offering help with sleds, John literally had a hand in all aspects of the sport. Countless sleds were torn apart and rebuilt in the basement of John and Gigi's house, as well as in the back of "Captain Billy's Whiz Bang", their deli next to the skating oval, where much of the 1980 Olympic Team was fed at one point or another. John also helped with the training of American race officials so that our nation could host its very own international races. In an example of no job being too small, he even drove the athlete transport trucks up and down the luge track as needed. John also had a large role in hosting (translation – learning secrets from) the international teams coming to town. He was there at the birth of today's USLA, much of which was conceptually conceived, along with a plan drafted, in his restaurant. If asked – and if you knew John, even if not asked – he took a role in counseling athletes who were looking to find an alternative to the AAU, which was then the governing body for the sport. During such tough political times, he often served as a lightening rod for controversy – with a lightning rod, of course – taking the full force of the storm, while at all times, protecting the luge athletes, whose interests, up until then, had rarely been considered by the town, the track, or the AAU. Finally, John was legendary for his newsletter editorials where no one was safe from being roasted!

This award is meant to honor those people who, like John, display a true, deep and undying passion for the sport; who have totally committed him or herself to the sport out of love without need for formal recognition. A perpetual trophy will reside in the USA Luge headquarters where the recipients' names will be listed. The award recipient will also receive a suitable personal trophy to be displayed proudly in their home.

An application follows to be used to nominate an individual for the award. The deadline for the receipt of nominations will generally be 60 to 45 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the USLA, and will be specifically listed at the bottom of each year's form.

Nominations can come from any USA Luge member. All USA Luge paid staff members are able, and welcome, to nominate someone to win this award; however, these same staff members are ineligible to actually win this award while employed by USLA.

As befitting John's support of the race officials, the Race Committee, along with John's wife, Gigi Jenkins, will be responsible for selecting no more than one recipient per year. The Committee will have the right to not put forward any name if they feel such an action is appropriate.

If a recipient is selected, the formal announcement and presentation will occur at the Annual Meeting of the USLA, which usually occurs in June of each year.

Previous Recipients: 2007 – Dick Genovese
2008 – Gigi Jenkins
2009 – Dennis Guertin
2010 – Jim Murphy

JOHN JENKINS SPORTS PASSION AWARD NOMINATION FORM

1. Person Doing The Nominating: _____

2. Person Being Nominated: _____

3. Justification (if necessary, please use another sheet of paper and if available, please enclose documents that support your justification (e.g., newspaper clippings.))

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4. Enclose and mail to the USLA using the following address:

U.S. Luge Association
Attn.: John Jenkins Sports Passion Award
57 Church Street
Lake Placid, NY 12946

The due date is April 25th, 2011.