

August 6, 2013

Mr. Jerry Borgen, Chairman
The American Ski Jumping Hall of Fame – Selection Committee
1165 Sterling Circle North
Maplewood, MN 55119

Dear Mr. Borgen:

I would like to convey to the Selection Committee my appreciation for being included as an inductee in the class of 2013.

I am aware of the fact that there is no shortage of ski jumpers who would happily break a leg to get into the Hall of Fame. In my case, I wanted to be inducted so badly that I fractured my neck three times!

I am particularly pleased to be in a class that includes Sarah Hendrickson. While Sarah's accomplishments transcend gender, she broke the glass ceiling in many ways and in a sense it makes her accomplishments all the greater. For too long organized sports have denied women equal access and it gives me great pleasure that the sport we love has finally opened its doors to great women athletes such as Sarah.

Finally, for me, being inducted into the Hall of Fame is a bit like coming home. Growing up, my life revolved around ski jumping. I love the sport, the people in it and the thrill of flying. All of that came to an abrupt end on February 25, 1968 when I took a fall that left me paralyzed from the neck down. But like all of us in the sport, it doesn't matter that you fall down as long as you get back up. The lessons I learned in ski jumping and from my fellow competitors made it possible for me to get back up and carry on with my life. I have had the good fortune to live independently and manage my own ranch over the past 35 years. Although ski jumping shaped my life, quite understandably, I have not been a part of the sport for the last 45 years. My induction into the Hall of Fame is, in a sense, a return to a sport that I love. I am finally home and I have the Selection Committee to thank for it.

Very truly yours,



Randy Garretson