
JIMMY ANIS

Staff Sergeant, #1929

*Written by Jimmy Anis with John Burchill
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The Philippines is a country of about 7,640 islands in Southeast Asia. It is situated in the western Pacific Ocean, sharing maritime borders with Taiwan to the north, Japan to the northeast, Indonesia to the south, Malaysia and Brunei to the southwest, Vietnam to the west, and China to the northwest. With a population of nearly 110 million people, it is the world's twelfth-most populous country.

For more than 300 years, the Philippines was a Spanish colonial possession, ceded to the United States in 1898 due to the Spanish–American War. An ensuing Philippine–American War for independence (1899–1902) ended with the United States establishing control over the Philippines, which they maintained until the Japanese invasion during World War II. Following liberation, the

Philippines became one of the founding members of the United Nations and was recognized as an independent nation in 1946.

In 1965 Ferdinand Marcos was elected president. Nearing the end of his last constitutionally-allowed term, Marcos declared martial law on September 21, 1972. Political repression, censorship, and human rights violations characterized this period of his rule. Democracy and government reforms would not return to the Philippines until 1986, when Marcos was forced to flee during the People Power Revolution.

In 1975, during the height of martial law in the Philippines, Geminiano Anis, a political science professor at the University of the East in Manila, decided to start a new life in Canada, where he felt it would be safer for his wife and four children, including Jimmy. Winnipeg was the chosen location because his wife's brother was living here and would be able to assist with the family's settlement.

Geminiano's family arrived in 1976. They lived downtown for the first few years before moving to St. Boniface. Geminiano worked as a Financial Planner with Manulife, and his wife was a sales clerk in Eaton's Department Store. After graduating from J.H. Bruns Collegiate, Jimmy went to the University of Manitoba, eventually graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree with a Major in Psychology and a Minor in Sociology.

After university, Jimmy worked with his dad in the financial industry. However, deep down, he wanted to work in the public service – either with the fire or police service. After falling short in his police interview, Jimmy was offered a position in the Constable Development Program to assist promising candidates in developing the skills necessary to compete, on an equal basis, with other members of the Police Service during recruit training.

Without hesitation, Jimmy took the position, knowing that it would give the Police Service and himself the opportunity to learn more about each other and to see if there was a mutual fit. It didn't take long for Jimmy to realize that policing was a career he wanted to be part of.



Jimmy's career with the Winnipeg Police began on December 11, 1995, when he was hired for Recruit Class #125. After graduation, his first assignment was in the old East Kildonan/ Transcona area, now known as East District. After short postings in Central Traffic and Human Resources, Jimmy was successful in his application to the Identification Unit, where he would spend the next 16½ years of his career earning all three of his promotions.

Jimmy tells me that his proudest moments/accomplishments were earned while he was a forensics specialist in the Identification Unit:

- Worked on numerous homicide and other high-profile cases. One case that sticks out in his mind is the Ainsley Kinch homicide, where the team conducted unique fingerprint development techniques on human skin;
- Worked with the Cold Case Unit, with the most memorable one being the Candace Doerksen case, where he reexamined multiple exhibits, hand-delivered evidence to the FBI in Virginia and testified in the case;

- Mentored several Ident members and instructed the Identification Course to several classes and was responsible for upgrading the training to today's training standards and, from his knowledge, the only instructor who taught a student through module learning for the entire program;
- Developed a fingerprinting tool to extract fingerprints from latex gloves that were worn by suspects and located at the scene;
- Worked along with RCMP Identification Unit to bring and host the Forensic Identification Society's Annual Training Conference to Winnipeg;
- Responsible for the planning of the Identification Section Lab at Headquarters;
- And finally, bringing the Bloodstain Program to Winnipeg, where the Police Service now has experts in the field who can assist other agencies and provide training to police officers worldwide.

After being promoted to Staff Sergeant, Jimmy was transferred to the Duty Office and from there to the North End Station before being reassigned to the Duty Office, where he remains today. Jimmy tells me he still enjoys his policing career and considers it a privilege to work alongside such wonderful people. The Police Service truly is part of his family.



Another big part of Jimmy's life is physical fitness. Being a police officer, he always took pride in being physically active. Long-distance running was always his sport, having completed at least 20 full marathons (26.2 miles), including the Boston Marathon three times. He was running in Boston when the bombings took place [near the finish line in 2013](#).

Fortunately, Jimmy ran a little quicker that year and managed to cross the finish line before the bombs went off. It still gives him chills when he thinks about that day, and if it wasn't for his dinner plans with his wife immediately after the race, where they would be today. He is thankful that someone was looking out for them.

Jimmy's introduction to the triathlon came at a (un)fortunate time for him. During the 2014 [Winnipeg Police Half Marathon](#), an event he had finished in first for police officers since it began in 2005, he suffered a severe strain to his right achilles that laid him up for a few weeks. It was

during this time that a friend of his invited him to swim with their triathlon club at Birds Hill. As Jimmy had never taken any swim lessons as a child, he declined. However, he did show up to their group swim and somehow was convinced to get into the open water.

Other than being thankful that he didn't drown, he enjoyed the experience and low and behold, without even realizing it, he started his triathlon journey. His workouts evolved to include swim training in the pool and an introduction to bike workouts. He didn't own a road bike then, so he used training bikes at the police and local gyms.



After recovering from his achilles injury, Jimmy found that cross-training in swimming and cycling was a great way to prevent or minimize running-related injuries. He trained with his friend's group and eventually learned the front crawl. He also decided to invest in his first road bike. Reaching out to his Identification colleague, Bill Ralph, who was known for his cycling, took him bike shopping and helped him buy his first road bike. Another person who influenced his triathlon and police career was Inspector Jamie Blunden (now Chief of the Weyburn Police Service), who provided him with mentorship and encouragement in his professional and sporting life.

Jimmy did his first-ever triathlon in August of 2014 in Pinawa. He initially signed up for the shorter Sprint Race (750 m swim, 25 km bike, 5 km run), but he wanted to challenge himself further and decided to double the distance and race the Olympic Triathlon (1500 m swim, 40 km bike, 10 km run). After completing that race, he fell completely in love with the sport. His next event was the 2015 Half Ironman triathlon in Minnesota (1.2-mile swim, 56-mile bike, 13.1-mile run). His passion for the sport continued, and he has now competed in countless Sprint, Olympic, Half Ironman, and Full Ironman events.

Since that time, Jimmy has competed in four full Ironman competitions in Wisconsin, Louisville, Arizona, and Penticton (better known as Ironman Canada). The distance raced for a full ironman is a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike, and topped off with a full marathon of 26.2 miles. Training for a full ironman is equivalent to having a part-time job, so when he is not working or with family, he is likely training.

In 2015, Jimmy wanted to affiliate with a triathlon club, leading him to meet a small group of Filipino triathletes called the [Sulong Triathlon Group](#). Somehow, he became president of this small group for two years. During these two years, Jimmy used his networking/people skills and grew this small club into one of the largest triathlon clubs in our province. He is very proud of this group, and it continues to be the club that most beginning triathletes join, as well as seasoned triathletes who know that this group is more about its people than the sport itself. This is how he approaches his leadership with the Police Service and how that success directly results from an entire team approach.

Jimmy tells me that his proudest accomplishments in triathlon are being voted Triathlon Manitoba's Long Course Athlete of the Year, qualifying for USAT Triathlon Championships in Cleveland, qualifying for Triathlon Canada as an age group athlete to represent Canada in ITU World Long Course Championships in Almere, Netherlands, and recently competing at the Ironman Canada in Penticton, BC.



Other accomplishments in triathlon include:

- Race director for Kids of Steel Race in Pinawa (2016);
- Part of the organizing committee for Manitoba's only Long Course Triathlon event in Hecla (the Sulong Triathlon Group is the race organizer);
- Competing in Noosa Triathlon (Olympic Distance) in Noosa, Australia;
- Selected as the 2019 Manitoba Triathlon Long Course Athlete of the Year; and
- Recognized as "All World Athlete" in Ironman age group 2017 and 2023 for being in the top 17% of his age group in world Ironmaking rankings.

As a triathlete, he continually gives back to the sport by lecturing at different triathlon clinics and offering his expertise in running by developing running plans for several individuals. He has also worked with a local bike shop in bike repairs and has offered bike maintenance clinics to triathletes.

Jimmy concludes by telling me that he is thankful for his policing career and his life in sports. After 27 years, he appreciates now more than ever the importance of being physically fit to be an effective police officer. He hopes to continue both of these passions for a few more years.

Watch for more of Jimmy in 2023 as he is preparing for the [Ironman Victoria 70.3](#) in May, the [World Police & Fire Games](#) in August in Winnipeg, and [Ironman California](#) in October.



NOTE: Anyone wishing to recognize a police member they feel made a substantial contribution to the world of sport in Winnipeg and its surrounding municipalities is asked to send me their name and a brief description of their accomplishments so we can recognize them during the year.