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Havre de Grace Family Honored at 2024 World Ninja League Championships

Bel Air, MD (July 3, 2024) - The Wilmoth family of Havre de Grace, MD, was recently honored to receive the Nagano Sportsmanship Award at the 2024 World Ninja League World Championships, held in Greensboro, NC, June 20-24. Parents, Kenneth and Ayrin Wilmoth, along with their sons, Liam, Daroch, and Ryan were recognized for founding their charity, Afterburn, which supports the competitive efforts of ninja warrior obstacle course racing athletes who are financially challenged and need additional support in order to pursue their ninja warrior athletic dreams.

The World Ninja League is the premier league in the USA for ninja warrior obstacle course racing, a sport based on the popular television show, American Ninja Warrior, originally based on a Japanese game show called Sasuke. Makoto Nagano was one of the original Sasuke competitors, a fisherman known for being extremely courteous, kind, and supportive of all the people attempting to finish all stages of the extremely challenging obstacle course successfully, particularly American athletes. Among American ninja warrior athletes, Nagano is considered a hero recognized as being one of the most inspirational figures helping develop the “ninja warrior ethic” of all athletes vs the obstacle course, rather than each other. Every year the World Ninja League recognizes exemplary sportsmanship by giving the Nagano Sportsmanship Award to an athlete or family demonstrating superior sportsmanship toward the ninja warrior competitive community.

With the founding of their charity, Afterburn, the Wilmoth family hosts ninja warrior competition and training events at their home in Havre de Grace, MD, where they have built a large outdoor obstacle course for training at the highest levels of the emerging sport. At their events, they raise funds to support the competitive endeavors of athletes who would not be able to participate in the sport due to financial restraints. “We want to give back to an athletic community who has been very supportive of our family, assist future ninja warrior athletes to launch their competitive pursuits, and do as much as we can to grow a sport our family loves so much.” said Ken Wilmoth, as the family received their award at the opening ceremony of the 2024 World Ninja League World Championships.

During the exciting World Championship competition, all 3 Wilmoth sons went on to successfully demonstrate their expanding ninja warrior skills. Competing as an 11-12 year old Preteen Male, Ryan won the Stage 1 obstacle course, Stage 2 obstacle course, and also the Speed event. Daroch and Liam both competed as Elite Males, in the most demanding division of the competition, where Liam went on to qualify for the more difficult Stage 2 obstacle course. Several celebrity ninja warrior athletes from the American Ninja Warrior television show were either in attendance, or competing, at this year's 2024 WNL World Championships, such as Najee Richardson, a former Maryland gymnast from the Rockville area, and Joe Moravsky, a weatherman from Connecticut.

Having successfully launched their charity, Afterburn, the Wilmoth's are currently working on their casting application for the next taping of the American Ninja Warrior television show. They hope earning an invitation to compete on the show will shine a spotlight on Afterburn, and encourage people to donate funds toward supporting ninja warrior athletes who would otherwise be unable to participate in ninja warrior training or competitions.