



Moena: the start

## Marcialonga

I consider it a great personal honour to be able to introduce Marcialonga di Fiemme e Fassa in this book commemorating the thirty years of Worldloppet and I do so with some emotion.

I took part in Marcialonga in 1976 for the first time and during the years I tried not to miss for any reason this appointment that gave me joy but also pains, victories and disappointments. I saw the passion, the firmness and the tenacity of its committee become stronger and stronger through the seasons. I struggled along its tracks against the most famous athletes of the world. I embraced the crowd in the last metres of my exploit. I received the trophy of my victory from the hands of the President of the Republic of Italy: an unforgettable moment that will remain in my memories forever.

It is thanks to Marcialonga that cross-country skiing, since then a characteristic of the people from the northern nations, became popular also in

Italy, where thousands of people started loving it and who are still performing it regularly nowadays with passion.

The organising capability, the beauty of its landscape, and the warmth of the people, the satisfaction to win with in the ears the yell of the crowd and inside the heart one sole thought: I will be back.

Long live Marcialonga.

Maurilio De Zolt

