

He doesn't know who gave him 'chance of a lifetime'

Thomas Fortunato was probably the only Olympic torch runner who carried a pouch of stamp cancellations attached to his shorts.

The 37-year-old Greece man is president of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors. Who nominated him to run in the torch relay remains a mystery.

"I'm more of a couch potato," Fortunato said laughing as a horde of family members and coworkers snapped photographs just before his torch was lit yesterday on Chili Avenue in Rochester.

About 30 employees of The Sutherland Group in Victor, where Fortunato is a marketing manager, stood cheering as he led the Olympic procession down the street. But no one seemed more proud than his 63-year-old mother, Rita.

"This is a chance of a lifetime and a great honor for my son," she said.

"Even though we don't know who nominated him."



SHAWN DOWD staff photographer

Kodak moment George Fisher, chairman and CEO of Eastman Kodak Co., waves to the crowd as he carries the Olympic torch down State Street yesterday.