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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 20, 2026

**Richie Beattie receives the  
Lynden “Committed through the Last Mile” Red Lantern Award**

**Nome, Alaska** – Rookie musher Richie Beattie (bib #21) of Fairbanks, Alaska, arrived in Nome at 7:49 p.m. with eight dogs in harness, becoming the final finisher of the 2026 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race® and earning the Lynden “Committed Through the Last Mile” Red Lantern Award. Beattie, along with eight fellow mushers, sheltered in White Mountain for more than 15 hours to wait out a powerful windstorm before continuing on to Nome, where all teams safely completed their journey today. He finished the race with an official time of 12 days, 5 hours, 49 minutes, and 46 seconds.

In its sixth year as a sponsor, Lynden proudly supports the “Committed Through the Last Mile” Red Lantern Award, presented to the final finisher in recognition of their perseverance and unwavering commitment to completing the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race® despite unexpected challenges. The tradition of awarding the Red Lantern to the race’s final finisher remains a cherished and enduring symbol of determination in Alaska’s sled dog racing heritage.

As the Red Lantern winner, Beattie receives \$1,000 and has the honor of extinguishing the widow’s lamp on the burlled arch in Nome. The symbol of the widow’s lamp dates back to when roadhouses were used in Alaska and extinguishing the lamp is a signal that no other mushers are out on the trail.

This award was presented to Beattie by Lynden Alaska Marine Lines Account Manager, Mike Morris under the Burlled Arch upon crossing the finish line and will be re-presented at the Finishers Banquet on March 22, 2026.

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