

Matt Baranko

Lake Forest, IL



"I've always been drawn to the Great Lakes and have been fortunate to live in a community along the shores of Lake Michigan since 2008. I can be found almost daily at the water's edge—whether cold plunging with friends during the winter months or open water swimming and boating from spring through fall.

Last summer, I was able to make a bucket list trip to Whitefish Point to visit the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum. The care and respect shown to all lost mariners through thoughtful exhibits was truly humbling. Swimming in memory of the 29 lost souls of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*, along with all those lost to the Great Lakes, is an honor—and I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity."