Judge Cynthia Newton is in top one percent among Ironman competitors

CLEARWATER - Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Cynthia Newton received a letter in the mail on Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018, with some shattering news: She is in the top one percent of women athletes in her age group who compete worldwide in Ironman triathlon competitions.

For the uninitiated, an Ironman is a grueling, if often scenic, race. It consists of a 112-mile bicycle ride, a 26.2-mile run, and a 2.4-mile swim. Judge Newton, 51, is in the 50 to 54 age group for women, and she has consistently improved since she started competing in Ironman triathlons in 2014. But not until now has she been ranked in the top one percent, a distinction that makes her a 2018 Ironman Gold All World Athlete. Her performances in four 2017 races — two full Ironman triathlons, and two half Ironman triathlons — were taken into consideration before she won the designation. In one of the full Ironman triathlons, in Texas, in April 2017, Judge Newton set what was then her own personal record: 12 hours and one minute. And in the other full Ironman, in August, in Coeur d’Alene, in Idaho, she finished fourth, which was her highest finish.

Judge Newton ranked 15th among women in her age group in the United States, and 29th in the world.

And she doesn’t show any signs of slowing down. In fact, in April of this year, she competed in the Texas Ironman and performed better than she did last year — 11 hours and seventeen minutes as opposed to 12 hours and one minute.

On Nov. 18, she will compete in the Cozumel Ironman. It will be her tenth Ironman.