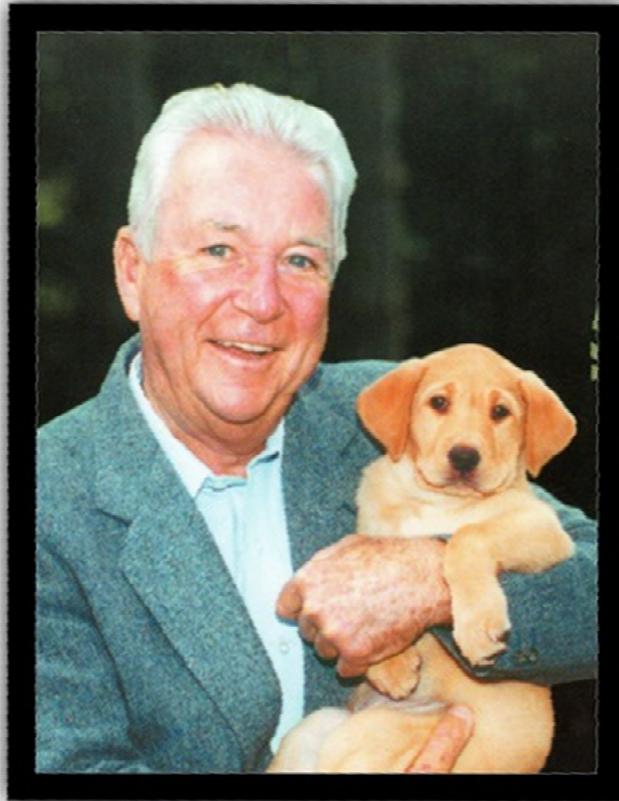


**The United States Blind Golf Association is proud  
to recognize and induct  
Ken Venturi  
into its 2008 class of the Hall of Fame.**



To anyone born after about 1955, Ken Venturi is best known as the decades-long lead golf analyst for CBS Television. But before he was a great broadcaster, Venturi was a great golfer, one whose career was cut short by injuries, and was bookended by a famous failure and a famous success. As an amateur in 1956, Venturi took the first-round lead at The Masters, and held a 4-shot lead going into the final round. But in that final round, Venturi three-putted six times and shot 80, winding up as runner-up to Jack Burke Jr. That round was one of the toughest scoring days ever at the Masters. Venturi's score was only a couple above the field average.

In 1964, Venturi battled through severe dehydration and heat exhaustion on a 36-hole, 100-degree final day at the U.S. Open, nearly collapsing on the course, but hanging on to win his only major championship.

Born in 1931 Venturi grew up in California. He had a severe stuttering problem as a youth, and enjoyed spending hours alone on the golf course. As a 13-year-old, Venturi followed Byron Nelson at a

tournament and Nelson became his hero - and later, Nelson became his mentor and his Ryder Cup captain at the 1965 matches. Venturi won the California State Amateur titles in 1951 and '56, and after his near miss at the '56 Masters he placed 8th at the U.S. Open. He turned pro at the end of 1956, and soon had two more near misses at The Masters, finishing fourth in 1958 and second in 1960.

Although he didn't win The Masters in 1958, Venturi did lead the PGA Tour with four victories that year. He won at least twice each year from 1957 through 1960, but not again for three years following an auto accident in 1961. Then he won three more times in 1964, including the U.S. Open. However, by this time Venturi was suffering from Carpal Tunnel Syndrome in both wrists. Surgery improved the condition, and he won once more in 1966, but Venturi's career was essentially over at age 33 following the 1964 season.

His awards included; PGA Player of the Year, 1964; Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year, 1964; Member, U.S. Ryder Cup team, 1965; Captain, U.S. Presidents Cup team, 2000; Member, U.S. Walker Cup team, 1953. He joined CBS in 1967 and remained the network's lead golf analyst until 2002. It was a remarkable career development given his childhood stuttering problems. Venturi was a highly popular broadcaster, especially teaming with play-by-play announcer Pat Summerall. Venturi's 35 years with CBS made him the longest-serving lead analyst in sports broadcasting history.

Venturi captained the U.S. team to a victory in the Presidents Cup in 2000. In 2004, his autobiography, "Getting Up and Down: My60 Years in Golf," was published. His name is attached to a series of golf instructional schools. He ran the Guiding Eyes Golf Classic, an event that raised money for providing guide dogs to the blind, for 27 years. He not only lent his name, but he attended each event and continues to be a true friend of blind golf.

### **A Letter from Ken Venturi**

*September 17, 2008*

*Rancho Mirage, CA 92270*

*To The Hall of Fame Committee:*

*It is with great privilege and honor that I accept my induction into the USBGA Hall of Fame. I go back many years when I was first asked if I would host the Guiding Eyes for the Blind golf tournament.*

*I can't count the many friends that I have made over the years. Friendships I will cherish the rest of my life. I learned the three "D.s" of life, Desire, Determination, and Dedication, which I try to live by.*

*I wish I could be with you on this special occasion, but I am there in spirit. I shall always treasure your friendship, and you will always be in my prayers.*

*May God bless you and keep you safe.*

*Sincerely,*

*Ken Venturi*