

The United States Blind Golf Association
is proud to recognize and induct
Jim McCaskill
into its 2009 class of the Hall of Fame.

Jim McCaskill was born December 14, 1948, in Newport News Virginia. He moved to Orlando Florida in 1958 and has played golf ever since. After high school, Jim joined the Army and served in Viet Nam with the Big Red One and the 24th Infantry. He returned home in time to join the opening team at Walt Disney World in 1971.

In 1990 Jim McCaskill was part of a foursome sponsored by General Motors playing in a corporate day golf scramble as part of the USBGA National Championship at Disney. He knew nothing about blind golf but found he was teeing off the first hole with former National Champion, David Meador. When David learned that Jim was the long hitter in the group, he proposed a challenge, or more like a deal. If David were to out drive Jim off the tee, then Jim would agree to support blind golf. As Jim tells it, "David hit a beautiful drive which was much longer than I expected so I gave my drive a bit of extra zip, and proceeded to top it 30 yards. David in his easy going way asked me to take his elbow and he would guide me to my ball because he knew it was just a little way off the tee...!"

Jim was hooked. He joined the committee the next day and in 1992 he became chairman of the National Championship tournament played at Lake Buena Vista, Florida, Walt Disney World. During his 10-year association, he was national tournament chairman in 1992, 1993, 1994, 1998 and vice-chairman in 1996 and 2000. The USBGA gained recognition during those years because of Jim's position as executive director of the MetLife Pavilion, EPCOT. He landed the tournament a corporate sponsor, Diawa, which resulted in the USBGA getting exposure to many national and local Orlando companies. The Golf Channel became a regular visitor at the championship and gave blind golf national exposure.

During Jim's chairmanship, members were treated to many opportunities including entrance to EPCOT with a first-class welcome and award functions at the MetLife Pavilion's VIP room. Through Jim's leadership, the USBGA golf scramble became a successful fund raiser which benefited local non-profits and national organizations such as the RP Foundation. Exhibition golf matches were held in the spring with blindfolded PGA pros, Ian Baker-Finch, Robert Gamez and most notably, Payne Stewart. Without a doubt blind golf and the USBGA enjoyed a special time

in its history because of the enthusiastic and tireless work of Jim McCaskill and his team. Somehow Jim also found time to coach blind golfer, Worth Dalton, for almost 5 years and Bob Andrews had him lining him up in a promotional match or two.

The organization and its members were impacted for many years by the efforts and dedication of Chairman Jim. He is hereby recognized and elected into the Hall of Fame as a "Friend of the USBGA".