

Barbara Gooden

Friend of Blind Golf

Inducted 2018

Barbara Gooden is from Muncie, Indiana. She has been involved with blind golf since her husband Loren lost his sight in 1985 to Central Retinal Occlusion. Loren was an avid golfer and taught Barbara to play golf long before he lost his sight.

Learning about the US Blind Golf Association from the Hines Blind Center in Chicago, Loren joined the USBGA in 1991 with Barbara serving as his coach. They competed in USBGA tournaments for nearly a decade before Loren passed away in 2001.

However, Barbara's support of blind golf and the USBGA was just beginning. She continued to attend the annual USBGA National Tournaments, nearly 20 in all, volunteering to help the President, the Board, and the Tournament Committee wherever needed. She helped at player registration. She checked blackout glasses. She assisted the Senior Rules Official with scoring, second day pairings, and monitoring play on the course. The list could go on. She was a golfer, so she understood how the tournament operation worked. She was a smiling face everyone could count on.

Barbara is from a large family consisting of 7 brothers and 1 sister. Both Barbara and Loren were school teachers in Muncie. They had four children, 2 boys and 2 girls. She has four grandchildren. They are a golfing family with Barbara, Loren and the four children all Club Champions at their home course. In 1976 the Gooden family was named the National Golfing Family of the Year by the Metropolitan Golf Writers Association in NY.

The United States Blind Golf Association is proud to recognize and induct Barbara Gooden into its 2018 class of the Hall of Fame.