



75th Anniversary USBGA
National Golf Championships
October 3-7, 2021

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UNITED STATES BLIND GOLF ASSOCIATION

Tom Mirus, PGA Life Member, 2020 NFPGA Section Deacon
Palmer Award

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October 2021

Welcome Golfers, Coaches and Guests!

It has been two years since we gathered for a National Championship tournament. It will be nice to have everyone together again, even as we continue to use caution in our gathering as the Pandemic is unfortunately, still with us. We are excited to welcome everyone to the beautiful Omni ChampionsGate Resort in ChampionsGate, FL for the 2021 US Blind Golf Association National Championship. 2021 marks the 75th playing of the tournament. The International Course is a Greg Norman design that will challenge our players from tee to green. We hope you enjoy the challenge.

As we mark the 75th National Championship, we do so as part of a celebration that not only includes the National Championship competition, but also the induction of the seventh class of the USBGA Hall of Fame. We will also honor Bob Andrews with a Lifetime Achievement Award that he created while President and initially presented it to Joe Lazaro in 1999 by renaming the award the Bob Andrews Lifetime Achievement Award. The first renamed award will be presented posthumously to his family.

There are many people that have had a hand in making an event like this a success. First, let me thank the staff of the Omni ChampionsGate Resort and the Golf Club and Hotel personnel that made sure all our needs were met. A special Thank you to Lynne Lazaro, my liaison with Mario Tobia to the USBGA Board. Lynne really kept things in order and me on track so that we got everything done.

Thanks to Tina Andrews who filled me in on bits of history when I didn't know the answer. Thanks to Sue and Art Beauregard for delivering in a big way; scorekeepers for all and several coaches too. Thanks to my coach, Robbie Robinson and his wife Stephanie.

With the Hall of Fame induction and the special honor for Bob Andrews, we will again have made this event more than just a golf tournament. After all, we are celebrating 75 years as an association providing tournaments for the blind and visually impaired. I remember five years ago, in Sarasota, when I chaired the 2016 Nationals Championship, we honored Pat Browne, Jr. He was several years removed from playing competitively and many in attendance had never met him. I remember how they stood in line to shake his hand because they knew he was the best blind golfer who ever lived. That was the year his name was added to the B1 National Champion's trophy. It is a day that President Bob Andrews had planned for in the 1990's to attach USBGA greats like Charlie Boswell and Joe Lazaro's names to National Champion trophies. In 2017 Bill McMahon's name was added to the B1 Stableford Division trophy.

So, I am proud that we have reached another milestone, 75 years, where a Hall of Fame induction intersects with another USBGA great Bob Andrews' name being attached to an exceptional leadership award. Our friends from Guiding Eyes for the Blind like to call USBGA players, "Stars" of the day. And while I agree and we celebrate their outstanding performances on the golf course each year, when we have a special year like this where we have a new Hall of Fame class and honor a 50+ year member of the USBGA, we are all reminded of the human spirit that can be found in all blind and vision impaired golfers.

Again, Welcome, Be Safe and Enjoy!

Tom Mirus, Chairman, 75th USBGA National Championship & Member USBGA Hall of Fame

REMEMBER...YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEE IT TO TEE IT!!

www.usblindgolf.com



The History of Blind Golf

From its rather obscure origin in 1938 at Duluth, Minnesota, the blind golf tournament developed in many directions with Charles Tooth, founder of the USBGA, at the helm. Charlie made advances in the quality of play which led to public adoption and appreciation of the event.



Clint Russell won in 1938 at his home course and again in 1946 and 1947 following a 7 year WWII break. Toward the close of World War II, Clint contacted several people in the Veterans Administration and suggested golf as therapy for those who had lost their sight. The Veterans Administration agreed with his suggestion. They have continued to offer golf as therapy to this day for those who are blind or visually impaired.

In 1946, a National Blind Golfers' Championship was held in Inglewood, California; this time with more than two golfers. Again Russell captured the championship. Charlie Boswell, who had been blinded while trying to pull a buddy out of a burning tank during World War II, came in second place.

As the number of blind golfers grew, Bob Allman, a blind golfer and Philadelphia lawyer, formed the United States Blind Golf Association (USBGA) in 1953.

Allman served as its first President followed by Joe Lazaro and Charley Boswell, who together guided the USBGA from 1956 through 1976. Pat Browne served as President from 1976 until 1992. Bob Andrews held the position from 1992 through 2002. Jim Baker was in office from 2002 through 2006. Phil Blackwell took over the office in 2006 and served until 2009. Then Sheila Drummond served from 2009 until 2011. David Meador took over the reins in 2011 and held the position for one year.

Jim Baker returned as President in 2012 and served until August 2015, when Dick Pomo was elected President of the Association and served through 2019 when Greg Hooper was appointed.

Three golfers have dominated the championships: Pat Browne took first place 23 times with an amazing 20 of those wins consecutive. The streak ended in 1998 with a win by Keith Melick. Charley Boswell won 16 times and Joe Lazaro won 7 times. Joe Lazaro holds the record for the first blind golfer to break 80 with a 77 at Wayland Golf Club in 1968. Pat Browne holds the record for the lowest round ever shot by a blind golfer with a 74 at the Mission Hills Country Club in California.

Until 1990, the USBGA National Championship was hosted annually at various locations around the country. From 1990 through 1997 the National Championship was played in Florida at the Lake Buena Vista Golf Club at Disney World.

Since that time, the USBGA is proud to continue hosting the National Championship at various golf clubs around the country. The USBGA also hosts Regional and International tournaments. Their Junior and Adult Golf Clinics provide blind and visually impaired individuals as well as others who are physically or intellectually challenged, the opportunity to adapt the learning process so they may also learn how to play golf. Clinics are offered throughout the United States.



The Players and Coaches

PLAYER NAME	Home City, State	Sight Class	Stroke (SP) Stableford (STF)	Senior Over 65	COACH NAME
Charlie Adams	Breckenridge, Texas	B3	SP	NO	Steve Schneider
Bob Banks	Concord, California	B2	SP	NO	Jerry Shaman
Art Beauregard	Leesburg, Florida	B3	SP	YES	Stan Shefveland
Tyler Cashman	Oldwick, New Jersey	B2	SP	NO	George Cashman
John Casolo	Oakville, Connecticut	B1	STF	YES	Dave Mouton
Sheila Drummond	Lehighton, Pennsylvania	B1	STF	YES	Keith Drummond
Jeffrey Estebo	Kenneth City, Florida	B2	SP	NO	Stan Hall
Keith Gile	Milford, Connecticut	B3	STF	NO	Dave Bonney
Harry Hester	Austin, Texas	B3	SP	YES	Jim Stanhope
Greg Hooper	Powder Springs, Georgia	B3	SP	NO	Alan Hooper
Phil Hubbard	Orange City, Florida	B2	SP	NO	Patty Angel
Curt Jones	Battle Lake, Minnesota	B1	STF	YES	Daniel Jones
Luke Lin	San Jose, California	B3	SP	NO	Paul Lin
Tom Marks	Danville, Pennsylvania	B3	SP	NO	Heather Marks
William Mathis	Colorado Springs, Colorado	B2	STF	NO	Hunter Held
JoJo McCarron	Orange Beach, Alabama	B3	SP	NO	Ed Wilson

PLAYER NAME	Home City, State	Sight Class	Stroke (SP) Stableford (STF)	Senior Over 65	COACH NAME
Paul McCormack	New York, New York	B2	SP	NO	Martin Irwin
Britton Munoz	Medford, Oregon	B2	SP	NO	James Sprenger
Chad NeSmith	Brentwood, Tennessee	B1	SP	NO	Lisa Bernard
William Pease	St. Augustine, Florida	B3	SP	NO	Neal Pease
Linda Port	Rancho Santa Fe, California	B3	SP	YES	Fred Port
Dick Pomo	Green Valley, Arizona	B1	STF	YES	Sue Beauregard
Orlando Ramirez	Davie, Florida	B2	STF	NO	Wendy Ramirez
Millard Reed	Reno, Nevada	B3	STF	YES	Jay Carter
Larry Rhinehart	Green Valley, Arizona	B3	SP	YES	Carol Rhinehart
Quentin Roberts	Broken Arrow, Oklahoma	B3	SP	NO	Fred Allee
Tony Schiros	Odessa, Florida	B1	STF	YES	Bobby Capobianco
Christopher Schmidt	Tucson, Arizona	B2	SP	NO	Maddison Schmidt
Tom Sullivan	Rancho Palos Verdes, California	B1	SP	YES	Laird Small
Ty Thompson	Lexington, Kentucky	B2	SP	NO	Roger Young
Mario Tobia	Mt. Laurel, New Jersey	B1	SP	NO	Michael Tobia
Aaron Howell	Louisville, Kentucky	B3	STF	NO	Ethan Howell

Remembering Members Lost

Bob Andrews



October 2, 1944 – September 16, 2020

Walter Dietz



July 6, 1932 ~ January 8, 2020

George Pilz



May 19, 1937 - October 15, 2018

Mike McKone



December 12, 1957 - February 16, 2021

Steven Castenada



January 31, 1958 – March 2, 2021

Joseph Quartuccio



February 10, 1924 – December 22, 2019

Anthony Ferraro



December 4, 1953 - January 1, 2020

Hall of Fame Inductee

Sheila A. Drummond

B1 Blind Golfer



After graduating from Palmerton, Pennsylvania High School in 1972, Sheila attended Allentown General Hospital School of Radiological Technology. She worked at a large Trauma Center until losing her sight in 1982.

Ten years later, Sheila started to play golf even though she was totally blind. Sheila had participated in a sports event for blind folks where she met two men who talked her into playing golf and ultimately joined the Mid-Atlantic Blind Golf Association (MABGA). She continued to improve her game by taking lessons from a local pro who gave her equipment to use.

Sheila joined the USBGA in 1995 as a B1 blind golfer. She was the first and only female golfer participating in USBGA competitive tournaments.

In 2002, Sheila was elected to the USBGA Board of Directors. She served as a B1 Board Member until 2009 when she was elected President and served as President from 2009 until 2011. She then continued to serve as the Past President Advisor to the Board for nine years.

Sheila made golf history in 2007 by sinking an Ace (hole in one) on a 144-yard, par-three hole at the Mahoning Valley Country Club, near her home in northeastern Pennsylvania. She is the first totally blind female to score an Ace. Sheila and her husband/coach Keith appeared on Good Morning America where she promoted the USBGA and blind golf. The National Hole-In-One Association honored Sheila by sponsoring her induction into the World Golf Hall of Fame Hole-In-One Registry, the world's leading registrar of golf holes-in-one.

Sheila has also served on numerous Tournament Committees and currently chairs the Membership Committee. In 2007, Joe McCourt made the initial contact with the Wills Eye Health Institute then turned the project over to Sheila. Sheila worked with the Institute to obtain a \$25,000 donation to be used for the National Championship at Edgemont Country Club. Sheila's dedication to the USBGA is evident by her working on many committees and participating in numerous projects in support of the USBGA's mission to promote blind and visually impaired golf.

Sheila's many awards include: the Raleigh Regional where she placed second; the Nationals McMahon Stableford Award and the Nationals Low Net Award five times.

Sheila played in the Guiding Eyes Classic for 22 consecutive years and has won the McFarland Award three times and the Spoonster Award four times. Thanks to the USBGA she has had numerous opportunities and met many inspiring people.

In her spare time, she likes to play golf with her husband, Keith. Both Sheila and Keith are actively involved in their Church.

The United States Blind Golf Association is proud to recognize and induct Sheila Drummond into its 2021 class of the Hall of Fame.

Hall of Fame Inductee

Millard G. Reed

B3 Visually Impaired Golfer



Millard graduated from the University of Nevada 1962 with a degree in Civil Engineering. For the next thirty years he worked in Reno, Nevada as a Civil Engineer, retiring in 1992 as the Director of Public Works. After retirement, he continued as an engineering consultant and was active in fishing, tennis, occasional golf and the great outdoors of the Eastern Sierra Mountains.

He lost sight in his left eye in 1996 due to Wet Macular Degeneration eliminating his ability to play tennis.

He resumed his golf game when his neighbor started taking Millard on weekly golf outings. However, in October 2004 he experienced more vision loss until two years later the loss stabilized leaving Millard with total central vision loss.

A Nevada Blind Services Adaptive Sports Specialist worked with Millard on learning to play golf with vision loss and he received additional training at the Veterans Western Blind Rehabilitation Center.

He joined the USBGA in 2007 but had to take another hiatus from golf to care for his wife who was battling cancer. She succumbed to the disease in 2009.

He rejoined the USBGA in 2009 and was elected to the Board of Directors in 2010. Millard was instrumental in a major revision of our By-Laws and the creation of the “Policies and Procedures” document that details the day to day operations of the Board, the Membership including tournament play.

Millard continued to work on his game with his coach, Jay Carter who was introduced to Millard by his late wife. Millard soon discovered Jay’s love of golf and they quickly became a golf team and great friends.

During Millard’s time on the board with Jim Baker serving as President, they identified a need for a fund raising platform. There was no fundraising structure in place and no funds existed to support it. Millard suggested a potential endowment. Jay and Millard began to think about using some of Millard’s Trust distributions to create the endowment. Two years later, on September 26, 2017, Millard funded the Millard G. Reed USBGA Endowment with \$116,000.00. He contributed a second significant donation to the Endowment in 2020. Millard stated that “To be able to help the USBGA to move forward and encourage others to contribute has been a sincere pleasure, to be sure.”

Millard also works closely with PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere), the charitable foundation of the PGA’s military program PGA REACH. PGA HOPE introduces golf to Veterans with disabilities to enhance their physical, mental, social and emotional well-being. Millard has participated in two such programs with a third under way.

In addition to Millard’s charitable and personal support of sight impaired golfers, he began to excel in the competitive game of visually impaired golf.

Within the USBGA he has achieved two National - Senior Champion titles; three National - Stableford Champion titles; a National - Vision Impaired Stableford Champion title; two Regional - Net Champion titles and a Regional - Stableford Champion title.

He also competes in the Veterans Golden Age Games where he has won four Gold Medals in Blind Golf.

As always, Millard is thinking of others and states “I am looking forward to supporting the goals of the USBGA and the friendships made with so many great people who embrace the pursuit of playing blind and visually impaired golf”.

The United States Blind Golf Association is proud to recognize and induct Millard Reed into its 2021 class of the Hall of Fame.

Hall of Fame Inductee

Tina Andrews

Coach



Tina never played golf and little did she know that after meeting Bob Andrews in 1965 and marrying him in 1968 what a significant part blind golf would play in their lives. Bob joined the Marines and served in Vietnam, until while scouting, he encountered a booby trap on June 12, 1967.

According to Tina, though Bob lost his vision in Vietnam along with other serious wounds, he never felt sorry for himself and not only ran a construction business, but took up the game of “Blind Golf”. Until 1990 Bob had a variety of coaches including his Dad and son, Travis. Although Tina insists she still knows very little about golf, she often coached Bob during most of the 1990’s through 2005. One thing she made sure of is that Bob always selected his own club.

Tina traveled the world, coaching Bob in such places as New York, Arizona, England, Scotland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Canada, Japan and Australia.

Tina was instrumental in creating a quarterly newsletter about blind golf called the Midnight Golfer in 1991. Tina said, “I published, printed, licked envelopes and at one point mailed over 500 newsletters to members

and interested individuals and organizations”. She continued to publish the Midnight Golfer until the mid-2000s. She also obtained the web address and began the www.blindgolf.com online.

Tina, in addition to coaching Bob, served as Secretary and Treasurer.

In 1997, Tina accompanied her husband to Australia to be part of the last meeting to finalize the rules and guidelines for the newly formed International Blind Golf Association (IBGA). Founding members of the IBGA (which included Bob) began talks earlier in 1996 in Japan.

In 1998, Tina and Bob organized and hosted the first World Blind and Visually Impaired Golf Championship in the United States at the Grenelefe Golf Course in Haines City, Florida.

The United States Blind Golf Association is proud to recognize and induct Tina Andrews into its 2021 class of the Hall of Fame.

Hall of Fame Inductee

United States Golf Association



Friend of Blind Golf

The United States Golf Association (USGA) is the governing body for golf in the United States. The USGA has supported the United States Blind Golf Association through the years by its recognition of our Association and its support of blind and visually impaired golf.

They recognized the USBGA as the sole representative for blind golfers in the early 1990's when, in conjunction with the Royal and Ancient (R & A) headquartered in Scotland, created the "Modifications to the Rules of Golf" for players with disabilities. Those modified rules apply to the following:

Rule 10 (Advice (10.2a) & Caddies (10.3))

Rule 12.2b (1) (Touching the Ground in Hazard)

Rule 10.2b (4) (Position of Caddie or Partner)

The USGA played a vital role in 1998 when the USBGA hosted the first ISPS/Handa World Blind & Vision Impaired Championships in Florida. They added credibility to our association and created public awareness for the International Blind Golf competition. Their support included a \$5,000 daily contribution for the execution of the three day tournament. In 1998 there were six Member Countries of International Blind Golf Association. Today there are 17 Member Countries.

The USGA continued their support of the USBGA by awarding multiple grants to the USBGA junior golf program, led by Joe McCourt in the

1990's and by Jim Baker in the early 2000's. The USGA continued their support of the USBGA junior golf programs by encouraging golf professionals to participate in the instruction at our clinics for the blind and vision impaired.

Our partnership with the USGA continues today by their recognition of the USBGA as a club in their World Handicap System. Their 30 year support of blind and visually impaired golf is displayed prominently on our website.

The United States Blind Golf Association is proud to recognize and induct the United States Golf Association into its 2021 class of the Hall of Fame.

****Accepted by Beth Major, Senior Director, Communications, USBGA***

Hall of Fame Inductee

Dick Pomo

Friend of Blind Golf



Dick has been a member of the United States Blind Golf Association for over 20 years. During that time Dick was elected to the Board of Directors several times serving terms as Vice President and most recently as President from 2015 to 2019. He and his wife Sharon hosted several Regional tournaments in Wisconsin and for nine years in a row conducted both Regional and the ISPS/Handa US International Open tournaments in Green Valley, Arizona.

As a USBGA Board Member and a recipient of two guide dogs from Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Dick has coordinated many of the Guiding Eyes Classic Blind Golf tournaments. Through the participation of USBGA members in the Classic and subsequent Guiding Eyes fund raising golf events, the USBGA had the opportunity to spread the word about blind and visually impaired golf. Three years ago, Dick took the lead role in opening the “Classic” to visually impaired golfers since for many years the tournament focused on the “Masters of Blind” golf and open only to totally blind golfers.

Dick believes that his most important contribution to blind and visually impaired golf has come from his ability and opportunity to serve as an ambassador for such a wonderful game. Much of Dick's philosophy towards inclusion of people with disabilities into the main stream of life stems from the beginning education he received at the Oak Hill School for the Blind in Hartford, Connecticut.

According to Dick, he learned at a very young age, that if you didn't learn to laugh at yourself, others would do it for you. Dick reserves the right not to be viewed as inspirational or amazing, but simply as a person who took advantage of opportunities presented to him along with so many wonderful people who he crossed paths with during his life.

Dick is proud of the fact that he has survived golf for over fifty years and that survival is based on the fact that he demonstrates on the golf course the enthusiasm of a beginner along with the skills of a person at that same level!!

Dick stated that "One of the highlights of my life was being involved in the passage of the American's With Disabilities Act (ADA) signed into law on July 26, 1990. Whether a person with a disability is seeking employment, participation in public accommodations or simply playing the game of golf, the rules need not change, a simple accommodation such as a coach in blind golf, allows us to take part in this wonderful game. I hope that I will be remembered simply as a person who could share the joy of participation and the desire to bring people who are facing vision loss back to the game they once enjoyed playing. The friendships of other blind and visually impaired individuals from around the world that I have formed have enriched my life".

The United States Blind Golf Association is proud to recognize and induct Dick Pomo into its 2021 class of the Hall of Fame.

Lifetime Achievement Award



Robert Jesse Andrews, 76, born Oct. 2, 1944 passed away in Tallahassee, Florida on September 16, 2020. He never had an unkind word about anyone or anything. He was everyone's hero.

Bob grew up overseas in Venezuela, South America. On returning to the United States in the 1960s, he attended Southern Methodist University and later graduated from Southern Polytechnic State University, Marietta, Georgia, in construction & engineering.

He then volunteered to join the Marine Corps and served in Vietnam. He was a sharpshooter and while scouting ahead for an operation, he sustained major injuries from a booby trap, which included the loss of his sight on June 12, 1967; this awarded him a Purple Heart.

At the Hines VA Rehabilitation Center Bob was introduced to the game of blind golf. During the following two years he learned and perfected his golf game with help from his first coach John Andrews, his dad. The United States Blind Golf Association (USBGA) became an important part of his life when he qualified to join in 1970. Over the next 40 years he competed in National and International tournaments winning many. He is both a National and International blind golf champion.

After moving to Tallahassee in 1976 he became the first totally blind licensed residential contractor building homes in area. When more

opportunities availed in the late 1980s and early 1990s, both in the USA and overseas, Bob decided to become more involved in the USBGA. He served on the Board, was Vice President, and went on to be President for ten years. He took pride that during his tenure many projects and advancements were implemented to the organization and blind golf.

With Tina, his wife, at his side, they produced the first newsletter “The Midnight Golfer”, created the web site “blindgolf.com”, and started regional blind tournaments with standardized regulations. Bob worked with the USGA to help write and create the initial “Modification of the Rules of Golf for Golfers with Disabilities”.

Bob’s travels overseas afforded him the opportunity to be one of the founders of the International Blind Golf Association in 1998. This led to the establishment of the first World Blind Golf Championships. In 1997 the International Network of Golf honored Bob with the “Dennis Walters Courage Award.” This award goes to an individual who has overcome great odds to participate in and contribute to the game of golf.

Bob was everyone’s hero. Other than golf Bob loved the water and anything on it. He loved to sail, body surf, dig holes in the sand, and fish. He loved to laugh. He loved to dance. Totally blind he lived life to its fullest. He and Tina traveled the world.

So when we remember Bob it will be with a smile on our face – what a champion. Two of Bob’s favorite phrases were: When you are born you come into the world crying while those surrounding you are smiling.

Live your life so when they lay you to rest you will be smiling while all those surrounding you are crying. 2 Corinthians 5:7, "We live by faith, not by sight.

Support and Recognition

Chris and Joan Whittaker

USBGA 75th National Championship Program Book Sponsor

Attorney Robert L. Marks, Sponsor

Ken Ross, Owner Medical Express, Donor

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Arizona Regional and US Open Tournament -
Dick and Sharon Pomo

Ray Rodriguez Organization, Sponsor



Middle Atlantic Blind Golf Association

Turning Obstacles into Opportunities

Officers: • President: Mario Tobia • 1st Vice President: Steve Rodos
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• Treasurer: Marty Jensen

Founded in 1948, MABGA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

• Site: mabga.org

Date: August 27, 2021

To: The United States Blind Golf Association, USBGA

Congratulations to the United States Blind Golf Association on your 75 years in existence. We share the same founder, Bob Allman, a resident of Philadelphia and the headquarters of the Middle Atlantic Blind Golf Association, MABGA.

It takes hard work from many dedicated people to run a group like the USBGA, but it takes an organization to survive and thrive for 75 years.

Congratulations and much success on the next 75 years.

Regards,
Mario Tobia
MABGA President



Letter of Congratulations

To the U.S. Blind Golf Association,

Congratulations on 75 years of service to the blind and vision impaired golf community!

As you may realize Walt Disney World Resort and our Golf Courses are celebrating 50 years of institution beginning next month, and we know how important it is to celebrate these major milestones.

Any organization lasting for that significant amount of time has undoubtedly gone through its highs and lows, but overall has done a tremendous job of continuing to reimagine itself to keep up with the ever-changing society and landscape of the people it serves. Additionally, you must have leaders that serve its audience well, and that the association as a whole serves a worthy purpose that continues to make a difference.

Evidently, the U.S. Blind Golf Association possesses all of the key ingredients, allowing it to continue to thrive through all of these years. As you celebrate the legacy of Bob Andrews and the fifty plus years of service that he gave to the association ahead of his passing last year, be sure to reflect on everything he brought to the association, and how you must continue to flourish while carrying on with his mission!

Walt Disney World Golf hosted your National Championship event from 1990 through 1997, played over Disney's Lake Buena Vista Golf Course. I was not a part of those events, but understand that it was more than just a golf event, with both evening receptions and access to our theme parks during the evening hours. I am sure an enjoyable week was experienced by all annually here at "The Happiest Place on Turf!"

Congratulations again on reaching your 75th Anniversary, and for continuing to create awareness and support for blind and vision impaired golfers throughout this great nation.

Sincerely,

Alex Forsyth, PGA
Director of Sales & Marketing

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September 10, 2021

To: United States Blind Golf Association, c/o Tom Mirus

From: Western Golf Association/Evans Scholars Foundation

All of us at the Western Golf Association and Evans Scholars Foundation congratulate you and all members of the United States Blind Golf Association on your 75th anniversary of service to the blind golfing community.

Your commitment to supporting blind and vision impaired golfers throughout the country exemplifies the same values and dedication to golf that we have adhered to since the WGA's founding in 1899 and the awarding of the first two Chick Evans Scholarships for caddies in 1930.

We recognize and applaud the role the USBGA has played in helping blind and vision impaired golfers learn the game and develop their skills and for hosting an annual national blind golf championship.

Your emphasis on training and providing caddies/coaches for blind and vision impaired golfers also mirrors our organization's long-standing focus on developing young men and women caddies for golfers nationwide. We know and value the importance of caddies to the game of golf and applaud you all of your caddie/coaches who have made golf possible for thousands of blind golfers.

These efforts by those who serve blind and vision impaired golfers have been recognized through the Caddie Hall of Fame, administered by the WGA. Three of the USBGA blind golf coaches – Gerry Barousse, Kevin Sullivan and Joe McCourt – all are in the Caddie Hall of Fame. Their record in assisting blind golfers is outstanding, as the players they coached and caddied for have won a full one-third (25) of your national championships.

In addition, we want to recognize Bob Andrews, who was a 50-year member of the USBGA, president for 11 years and who was a founding member of the International Blind Golf Association, before his passing in 2020. It is selfless gentlemen like Mr. Andrews who truly make the game of golf great. May his example be a guide for those who follow in his footsteps.

Best wishes as you conduct your 75th national Blind Golf Tournament. We look forward to welcoming more of your dedicated coaches to the Caddie Hall of Fame in years to come.

Sincerely,

John Kaczkowski
President & CEO
Western Golf Association/Evans Scholars Foundation

Our Friend and Long Time Supporter

Guiding Eyes for the Blind

Pat W. Browne, Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament





"Where Amateurs Play Like Pros!"



Tom Mirus, Director

Golfweek / Senior Amateur Tour -- Orlando

Thank You to the **Management and Staff** of the



*Program Book prepared by Lynne Lazaro
USBGA Sighted Board Member and Tournament Committee Member*

*Published by Allegra Design Marketing Print
Brockton, MA 02301*

Evening Musical Entertainment

Pianist EDDIE TOBIN joined the Ventura's in 2006. He studied at Fl. State University and The University of Miami. At UM, Eddie studied under the highly respected pianist/educator, Vince Laurence Maggio. During and after college Eddie played around the Miami area, on cruise ships, and across the country.

In 1987, he moved to Nashville where he played for the Forester Sisters and with that group, opened for Kenny Rogers through 1988. Eddie also played with Brenda Lee on keyboards and accordion.

Soon after, Eddie became pianist and conductor for a show band. This led to a seven and a half year ride all over the world as pianist, music director and conductor for Engelbert Humperdinck.

Eddie has performed in such prestigious venues as: the London Palladium, Montreal's Place Des Arts, the Universal Amphitheatre in Los Angeles, and the Kremlin Palace of Moscow. Eddie has performed in such diverse places as Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Germany Belgium, and at various casinos in Las Vegas and the country

Vocalist TOM SULLIVAN is an actor, singer, entertainer, author and producer as well as an accomplished blind golfer and athlete.

Tom started out playing the piano in summer resorts in New England. He eventually gained national prominence with appearances on The Tonight Show, a major recording contract and a steady stream of gigs in Las Vegas and resorts around the country.

In 1975, Tom's autobiography, 'If You Could See What I Hear', co-written with Derek Gill, took him on yet another journey, this time as an author. The story is an inspirational one of Tom's college years at Providence College and then at Harvard. 'If You Could See What I Hear' became a major motion picture in 1982.

Tom has gone on to write more than a dozen books, both works of fiction and non-fiction.

Tom was a regular morning special correspondent for ABC's Good Morning America. He also went on to be nominated for two Emmy Awards and has acted on TV series, such as Designing Women, Highway to Heaven, Fame, M*A*S*H, Mork & Mindy and WKRP in Cincinnati, just to name a few.

The Omni at ChampionsGate



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www.championsgategolf.com

