



GOLF FOR INJURED VETERANS EVERYWHERE

The **G.I.V.E. FOUNDATION** was established to fund the Golf for Veterans program providing a structured golf program for injured veterans who use the Iowa City VA Medical Center. The golf program has four phases of training for injured veterans to participate in to enhance their mental, social, physical and emotional well-being; and improve their quality of life.

There is a wonderful mythical law of nature that the three things we crave most in life – happiness, freedom and peace of mind – are always attained by giving them to someone else.

PEYTON CONWAY MARCH



Dear Fellow Iowan,

Have you ever wondered how you could make a difference in someone's life? We have a very special activity that is taking place here in Iowa to make life a little better for the Veterans being seen at the Iowa City VA Medical Center. Our Veterans have given so much for us and for our country; this program was created to G.I.V.E. back and help those Veterans who are injured and improve their quality of life.

The program is called Golf for Injured Veterans Everywhere or G.I.V.E. The program is a partnership between the Iowa City VA Medical Center, the Iowa Section of the PGA and Riverside Casino & Golf Resort. The VA Medical Center of Iowa City screens and recommends Veterans for the program, the Iowa Section of the PGA provides professional instruction, and Riverside Casino & Golf Resort provides the facilities of Blue Top Ridge golf course and practice area.

Golf is an activity that can be modified to take advantage of the injured players' strengths while offering the advantages of exercise, recreation outdoors, companionship, and competitiveness.

The first G.I.V.E. class was comprised of 17 men and women who completed the first phase of basic golf instruction. Since hearing of their graduation, over 300 Iowa veterans who are injured have applied for the program. The instruction and time on the course is all provided at no charge to the participating veterans. For those that don't have equipment, donated clubs are collected at area Hy-Vee stores, refurbished, and fit to each individual, again at no charge.

Enclosed is a brochure explaining the program in a little more detail along with news clips that have been featured in the National PGA magazine and Iowa Golf magazine along with letters from some of the Veterans in the first class and how it has changed their outlook on life.

How can you help? – GIVE is a 501(c)3 organization and relies on donations to provide golf-related equipment and instruction for Iowa's injured veterans. Your contribution today will make a difference in the lives of our Veterans tomorrow.

Please consider a donation of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250 or \$1000 to keep this program going strong and help all the Veterans returning who need our assistance now more than ever. What ever you can GIVE would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lou King
President
G.I.V.E Foundation



GOLF FOR INJURED VETERANS EVERYWHERE

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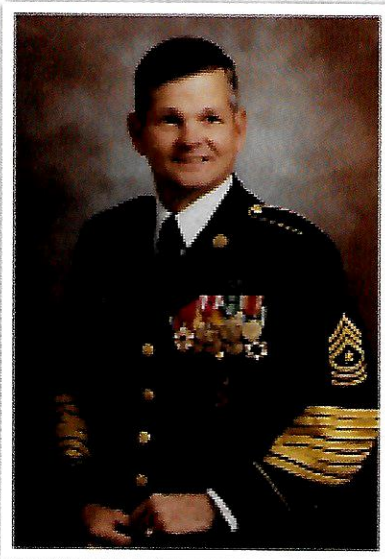
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Veteran Leads G.I.V.E. Program



The Golf for Injured Veterans Everywhere, G.I.V.E. Foundation, Inc, has announced the appointment of Jim Dickerson, PGA of America golf professional, as the Foundation's Director of Golf Instruction. He has assumed the duties of coordinating and administering the instructional phases of the G.I.V.E. program that is wrapping up the final sessions of the first two classes involving 35 injured and disabled veterans through the Iowa City VA Medical Center and the Riverside Casino and Golf Resort's Blue Top Ridge golf course.

Dickerson has been a PGA Teacher at the University of Iowa's Finkbine Golf Course in Iowa City for 14 years and the Men's and Women's Golf Coach at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, IA for 13 years. He began his career in the PGA of America after retiring as a Sergeant Major from the

United States Army in 1991. He served in the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam in 1968 and later with the US Army Recruiting Command during Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

He is a graduate of Iowa City High School, the US Army Sergeant's Major Academy, and the University of Iowa. He holds certificates from numerous PGA of America education programs including the bi-annual Teaching and Coaching Summits.

Dickerson feels his 23 year military career and his teaching experience in golf will enable him to be a "veteran helping veterans" in his new capacity as Director of Instruction for the G.I.V.E. Foundation.

Blue Top Ridge opens with charity event

Tournament held to raise money for Golf for Veterans program

The Blue Top Ridge golf course at the Riverside Casino & Golf Resort opened, Wednesday, hosting a charity golf tournament to raise funds for the GIVE Foundation, which will help injured veterans learn the game of golf.

The response to the tournament, which drew a number of celebrities willing to help the cause, was outstanding. The event had a full field of 190 golfers playing in the five-person best-shot scramble.

"We had a ton of people show up, and we had to turn teams away," said Bobby Kehl, the director of golf at the Riverside Casino & Golf Resort. "I think it's a great program and everyone's having a really nice time. It's been a fantastic turnout, and I wish I could have had everyone play."

The GIVE (Golf for Injured Veterans Everywhere) Foundation is a partnership between the Riverside Casino and Golf Resort, the Iowa Section of the PGA and the Iowa City VA Medical Center. The foundation was established to fund the Golf for Veterans program, providing a structured golf program for the injured veterans who use the Iowa City VA Medical Center.

The Golf for Veterans program was the brainchild of Lou King, a World War II Navy Veteran who was the former head of the PGA of America.

"I've had this on my mind and



worked on this all my life," he said. "I was in World War II. But I never had found three parties. The VA in Iowa City, the Iowa Section of the PGA and Blue Top Ridge are an unbeatable combination. I'm so excited about it."

King took the idea to Dan Kehl, the chief executive officer of the Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, and Kehl decided to work on the program.

Wednesday's tournament raised approximately \$50,000, which will help launch the program, said Sharon Haselhoff, public relations director of the Riverside Casino & Golf Resort.

The one-of-a-kind golf program has four phases of training for injured veterans to participate in to enhance their mental, social, physical and emotional well-being and improve their quality of life. The first two phases involve bringing PGA professionals into the VA Medical Center in Iowa City to introduce 25 veterans to the game of golf and begin indoor instruction. This instruction could begin by the beginning of September, said Iowa City VA Medical Center Director Barry Sharp.

"They are providing the golf professionals that do that, so it will

be absolutely first-class instruction," he said. "There are two parts to that – teaching the overall game of golf with rules and etiquette and then the actual physical instruction. We're shooting for the end of September, so this will start very soon."

Bryan Haas, the course professional at Blue Top Ridge, is looking forward to working with the injured veterans.

"For me to be able to give back and help some of these people who gave to our country is important," he said. "It will be a lot of fun and I'm sure it will be a great group of people who are just going to have a blast being able to go outside of the box of what they think they're able to do."

The final two phases of the golf for Veterans program will actually get the veterans onto the Blue Top Ridge golf course. In the third phase, the veterans will work with golf pros at Blue Top Ridge, working toward the final phase where they will be able to play the course without assistance.

Through fun raising and corporate sponsors, the GIVE Foundation will offer golf instruction to select veterans free of charge.

"This is going to cost none

of the veterans one penny,” King said. “That’s the one thing I wanted to make sure happened because I was one of them. I knew what you got paid. The golf is free, the equipment is going to be free, and the instruction is free.”

Teaching injured veterans to play golf has a number of physical and mental health benefits, Sharp said. “The overall purpose is to develop veterans who need to get back into society and it will help them gain self-confidence,” he said. “It benefits not just the veterans, but it also benefits their families greatly. It helps to open up communication with the family members and it helps them to be a more productive member of society by getting them out and getting them socialization, which is really the purpose of the golf outing. It helps to build their self-confidence and it helps to get them out and get them socialized. That’s a really important aspect of the program.”

Sharp, who said he wasn’t an avid golfer, said he was having a good time playing on the new Blue Top Ridge golf course.

“It’s just fun to be out here,” he said. “The other thing is, it’s unique that the veterans will have the opportunity to play on a brand-new golf course. I think the facilities they’re offering for

our veterans are world-class and top-notch.”

While the event drew many golfers eager to play Iowa’s newest golf course, which was designed by Rees Jones, the tournament also drew a number of celebrities. Actor Tom Arnold, former University of Iowa basketball starter and former NBA player B.J. Armstrong, former major league baseball coach Bruce Kimm, former University of Iowa basketball coach Tom Davis, former Iowa

“For me to be able to give back and help some of these people who gave to our country is important”

Bryan Haas, Blue Top Ridge Club Pro

State University basketball coach Johnny Orr, former University of Iowa basketball star and former NBA player Bobby Hansen and many other participated in the event.

“The biggest reason I think they came is because they believed its’ a really good cause,” Bobby Kehl said. “We asked them, they asked what it was for, we told them what it was for, and they said, ‘Yes.’ They wanted to do it because they’re strong supporters of our veterans. They thought it was a good way to raise some money and get this program started.” ■

Travis Brown, Washington Evening Journal
Thursday, August 2, 2007





PGA Professionals **G.I.V.E.** Back

The GIVE Foundation is a unique new program that helps injured veterans make golf an important part of their ongoing recovery.

By Bob Denny

A group of 17 military veterans, with service ranging from World War II through Iraq, were the first student/participants in the inaugural Golf For Injured Veterans Everywhere (GIVE) Foundation program, held in Riverside, Iowa. The distinguished group celebrated the end of their golf “basic training” in mid-November.

The program was conceived by Louis King, a veteran and former executive director of The PGA of America, to make golf an important part of an injured veteran’s recovery. King was asked by Dan Kehl, CEO of the Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, to bring to-

gether the Iowa PGA Section and the Veterans Administration (VA) to form a partnership at the section’s new on-course home – Blue Top Ridge at Riverside. King was named president of the GIVE Foundation.

The ensuing partnership between the Iowa PGA Section, the Veterans Administration Medical Center of Iowa City and host Riverside Casino & Golf Resort made this unique classroom possible. The partnership is flourishing for many reasons, but not without its undercurrent of selflessness among all parties. Twenty-five Iowa PGA Professionals who have volunteered to give free instruction to injured veterans, giving them a new lease on life. And, the professionals also are learning from their stu-

dents, many of whom brought their spouses to the training program.

"We're not here because we're getting paid," says former Iowa PGA President Ken Schall of Des Moines. "We're here because of the veterans, and what they have done for us. We're lucky in our Section to have so many who may come and help. We're a close-knit group. This is an

well-being and improve their quality of life: Introduction to Golf (Rules, equipment, dress, scoring, etiquette, etc.), indoor instruction, outdoor practice at Blue Top Ridge and finally, golf rounds at Blue Top Ridge.

The Veterans Administration has received 62 registrants eager to join the GIVE project. The first group of 17 "graduates" received

"The professionals I've met are not just going through motions. They look you in the eye; they care about you. I've started building a little more trust; I feel born again."
- Joe Corso - West Liberty, Iowa

ongoing program, where the ultimate goal is for all veterans to enjoy the game. I've seen so many good things take place already, and we've yet to take these veterans to the range and eventually play the course."

The GIVE Foundation program, administered by the Iowa PGA, has four phases of training for veterans to enhance their mental, social, physical, and emotional

training in all aspects of the game of golf – from the game's timeless rules and etiquette to all phases of shotmaking. Once the training was completed, the students were fitted for their own set of free clubs. PGA Professionals analyzed each veteran's swing/abilities and customized the clubs to accommodate the player's injuries.

Joe Corso of West Liberty,

Iowa, is one of the GIVE "pioneer" students. The 63-year-old former E-5 Sergeant has coped with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) since his last day of three tours of duty in 1969. He also learned late last summer that he has the early stages of leukemia.

Corso says that he had not left his home in a couple years, but now has reason to feel good again about fresh air and meeting new faces, including fellow veterans. He was joined in the classroom by his wife, Linda.

"This program has brought me closer to my wife," says Corso. "The professionals I've met are not just going through motions. They look you in the eye; they care about you. I've started building a little more trust; I feel born again."

The warm feeling that Corso and others in the classroom feel would not be possible, however, without the other pieces of the program fitting so well.

With the bulk of its 850-employee base from eastern Iowa, the Riverside Casino & Golf Resort is a study in the commitment of Dan Kehl and his brother, Bobby, a member of the resort's Board of Directors. Together, they founded the GIVE Foundation as a timeless service to all veterans. The resort soon will have a training center completed that will support year-round practice.

Iowa VA Medical Center Director Barry Sharp praised the program, calling it a "truly unique partnership."

"What excited me is that we have a partner giving a program to our veterans that previously didn't exist – and at zero cost to the VA or the taxpayer," says Sharp. "The support has been overwhelming. Our goal is to get it right in order that we may help other VA centers and many more veterans around the country. And, we have come



a long way so far. There was a standing ovation for the vets at one of the meetings and I heard one vet tell me, 'I can't believe someone doing this for me!' They are overwhelmed."

Sharp oversees 1,200 employees at VA clinics in 32 counties in Iowa and 14 in western Illinois, serving some 43,000 veterans. In addition to the Iowa City Veterans Medical Center, the state also has VA hospitals in Des Moines and Knoxville.

"We could not be more pleased to have the Iowa Veterans for Golf Program start in Iowa City," says Sharp. "It shows a commitment from Iowa businesses and organizations to our veterans. It will bring great enjoyment to our veterans, their families, VA staff, PGA staff and Blue Top Ridge at Riverside staff." When Blue Top Ridge at Riverside opened on Aug. 1, a grand opening fund-raiser raised \$65,000 that day for the GIVE Foundation. "It's a start, a good start," says Dan Kehl. "Golf might be one small way we can repay the debt all of us owe these great Americans. But it doesn't end there. We have many more miles to go."

"He's got big plans," says Sharp of Kehl's program. "What is

so wonderful is that we have all the players that can make this happen."

To "get it right," as Sharp, the Iowa PGA and Kehl agree, there must be training for Iowa PGA Professionals to adapt to teaching both physically disabled as well as those suffering primarily from PTSD.

The Iowa PGA invited PGA/LPGA Professional Judy Alvarez to teach a class. Alvarez is The PGA of America's National Trainer for the Wounded Warrior Program, and has led similar clinics nationwide.

"The Iowa VA and PGA officials were very open, very professional about their goals," says Alvarez. "I was very impressed, and you know I also learned a lot from the speakers joining me that day – including a psychiatrist and one representing Family Wellness.

"It's one thing to teach a veteran to hit a golf ball, but it's another to understand what life is like for him or her before they arrive on the practice range. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder usually adds strains on a family, and many times the spouse has had to get another job to support the family after the veteran returns; there is a loss of intimacy

and the spouse basically becomes a fulltime caregiver for the kids.

"Golf is a program that is so much more helpful than we may realize. People escape to a golf program. When working with PTSD vets we learn that we sometimes have to repeat the information we give to veterans, to get them to focus. We may not give a full-fledged golf lesson, but we have to anticipate that and be patient. There is so much good being accomplished, and I applaud Iowa for what it has done and the great support it has received from both the facility and the VA."

PGA Professional Dave Schneider, the director of golf and general manager at Wakonda Club in Des Moines, had never taught a disabled student to play the game before participating in the GIVE Foundation program.

"This program is so far ahead of the curve," says Schneider. "It is tremendous. It gives the student a completely new outlook on their psychological therapy. Golf transcends that. I believe that you are communicating with students as never before. I was nervous before I arrived. I did not want to fall short as a teacher."

Two days before Thanksgiving, the "graduates" were fitted to new equipment by the Iowa PGA Professionals and each presented a complete set of clubs donated by Iowans at Iowa City, Coralville, and Cedar Rapids Hy-Vee Food Stores. Hy-Vee also presented each graduate with a Thanksgiving turkey.

"This is as rewarding as heck," says PGA Professional Jerry Johnson, a past Iowa PGA Section president. "There are great people involved on both sides of this – the veterans and my fellow professionals." ■



Golf program for veterans a Hole-in-One

Seventeen disabled veterans complete G.I.V.E. basic training hitting in the links



Monday was a special day for participants in the Golf for Injured Veterans Everywhere, or G.I.V.E. program. Seventeen disabled veterans completed their basic training in golf. The VA Medical Center in Iowa City, the Iowa PGA Section and Riverside Casino & Golf Resort established G.I.V.E. to allow veterans with disabilities being seen at the Iowa City VA Medical Center the opportunity to learn and play the game of golf.

members of the Iowa Section PGA at the Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, where they have access to the Blue Top Ridge at Riverside golf course. This first class included veterans from WWII, the Vietnam War and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. At the final session, the graduates were presented with complete sets of golf clubs donated by Iowans at Iowa City, Coralville and Cedar Rapids Hy-Vee stores and refurbished and fit to the

The golf program has four phases of training for veterans to enhance their mental, social, physical and emotional wellbeing and improve their quality of life. Instruction is provided by golf professionals from across the state who are mem-

individual player by PGA professionals. Hy-Vee also presented the graduates with a free Thanksgiving turkey. Iowa VA medical Center Director Barry Sharp praised the program calling it a "truly unique partnership" that will benefit our veterans. "We could not be more pleased to have the Iowa Veterans for Golf Programs start in Iowa City," Sharp said. "It shows a commitment from Iowa businesses and organizations to our veterans. It will bring great enjoyment to our veterans, their families, VA staff, PGA staff and Blue Top Ridge at Riverside staff." "We are proud to have been a part of this program and are anxious to have the graduates play the course next spring and summer. Golf might be one small way we can repay the debt all of us owe these great Americans," Riverside Casino & Golf Resort CEO Dan Kehl said. To learn more about the Iowa Veterans for Golf Program or to donate to the G.I.V.E. Foundation, please contact Sharon Haselhoff at 319-648-1234, ext. 1950. ■

Homers *What's going right*

GOLF GIFT FOR VETS: A new partnership will give Iowa veterans with disabilities the opportunity to learn and play golf. The Golf for Injured Veterans Everywhere Foundation was recently established by The Veterans Administration Medical Center in Iowa City, the Iowa Professional Golfers Association Section and Riverside Casino & Golf Resort to raise money for the program. The goal is to enhance veterans' mental, social, physical and emotional well-being and boost their quality of life. They deserve it.

Cedar Rapids Gazette 8-20-07

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Our Veterans deserve a boost in their quality of life and this is a chance for you to give back and make a difference in someone's life. We ask for your financial support today. This program has made national news with its success covered in the January, 2008 PGA Magazine.

Please help us continue to teach our injured Veterans the game of golf, and continue to enhance their mental, social, physical and emotional well-being.

Contributions can be sent to:

G.I.V.E. Foundation

PO Box 659

3184 HWY 22

Riverside, IA 52327

For more information please feel free to contact us at: 319-648-0026 or send us an email at:

info@giveforveterans.com.

You may also visit our website at:

www.giveforveterans.com.

SAVE THE DATE

Don't forget to mark this date on your calendars!

Thursday August 28, 2008

**2nd Annual
G.I.V.E. Foundation
Golf Tournament at
Blue Top Ridge**



GOLF FOR INJURED VETERANS EVERYWHERE

PO Box 659 • 3184 Highway 22 • Riverside, IA 52327