



PGA

Michigan Section

BIO OF SPECIAL AWARDS CANDIDATE

Name of Nominee: Dean Kolstad _____

Year Elected to Membership: 2001 _____

Award Nominated for: Patriot Award _____

Briefly describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award:

First, it is an honor to be nominated.

- VA tournament for the Western Chapter

Over the last 15 years I have missed one event, being able to participate and spend time with the caddies hearing their stories and how the PROJECT HOPE program and the Custer green golf course has helped them in their recovery and changed their lives, this is time spent you just can't replace.

- Project HOPE

I have volunteered in this program since it's inception in 2012. We have done a 5-week program twice a year spring/fall, during this time, of which I have missed 2 sessions. Being part of something that can change people's lives, which this program does, is certainly rewarding.

- PGA

Sitting in our meetings and having the recipients of the Folds of Honor scholarships stand up and share their stories really tugged at my heartstrings, as I know it must have everyone that is in attendance. I decided to try and do what I could to help, 6 years ago, by having my own event at Bedford Valley. With the help of Colonel Frank Walker, and a couple, from our club whose, son lost his battle with PTSD.

The first year we had 2 teams from the VA hospital and 14 teams total. I am happy to say over the last 6 years we have raised over \$8000.00, that we have shared between the VA hospital and the Folds of honor. Also, at last year's event we had a flyover by 3 WWII fighter planes which really took the outing to the next level, so I hope in years to come we can get 20-25 teams involved. At our newest course Stoatin Brae this fall, we hosted the first ever event to raise money to help improve course conditions at Custer Greens, the golf course on site at the hospital

- Harbor shores

I have volunteered in giving lessons to the veterans at the PGA Senior championship the last couple of times they have hosted the tournament.

Final thoughts:

Probably the biggest thing that I have gotten out of this experience so far and the thing I am most proud of, is a former patient at the VA hospital who was in our Project Hope program is now an employee at one of our courses on the grounds crew, so I get to see first hand how getting involved can change a person's life. Come spring I hope to add 2 or 3 more.

In closing I would like to thank whomever nominated me and the committee's consideration for this award.