

BIO OF SPECIAL AWARDS CANDIDATE

Name of Nominee: Doug Bell

Year Elected to Membership: 1991

Award Nominated for: The Patriot Award

Briefly Describe your achievements/accomplishments that pertain to this award:

- Contributions and support of the US Armed Forces personnel and veterans.

We have always supported our local Veteran's initiatives to ability that we can. Golf related events have been hosted annually at our facility. Contributions of golf rounds and hotel stays to events at other courses or events that are non-golf related are regularly made.

In the past 2 seasons the local VFW has organized a weekly group that plays at Manistee National. We are assisting them in growing this group and creating a weekly league that began simply by a group of 3-4. We also ask for their assistance with events at our Resort. In the Spring they assist us with our Flag Raising ceremony and recently they assisted us with our Patriot Golf Day pre-tournament ceremonies. Anything we do like this we reach out to the press and media to keep their presence in the eye of the local people.

We offer Military discounted golf rates as well as military discounted rates at our Inn.

- Examples of providing opportunities for US Armed Forces personnel and veterans to learn and play golf.

Plans are underway for a series of golf instruction clinics offered free of charge in 2019. As many small towns are in the same position up north. Our local golfer count is getting smaller each summer. The military veterans who play are part of this local number and in our area their numbers are getting much smaller. So working together we are trying to bump this and expose golf as an option instead of just gathering at the local VFW halls or Service Clubs.

- Outstanding leadership and a strong moral character.

I have tried to lead by example for my career with doing the right things, by setting an example in my community...giving time and efforts to good causes and assisting those that need it. Currently I serve on several boards:

The United Way of Manistee County (12 years)
The Visitors Bureau Board of Manistee County (19 years)
The Manistee Blacker Airport Authority (3rd year)
The Michigan Chapter of Folds of Honor (1st year)
The Michigan PGA Special Awards Committee Member

All of these organizations do unique work and serve the greater good, helping local people and local businesses thrive. Ultimately helping our communities be better and stronger. Our time as PGA professionals is precious and seems to be getting more so...I still feel it is something we all should do...volunteer where and when we can.

I don't feel your asked to be part of organizations if you have not shown a bit of leadership and you don't have proper character. I am proud to this point of what I have done in my profession within the PGA and within my local communities.

- Continued growth and success in programs and fundraising for Folds of Honor or other similar military initiatives.

My efforts have doubled at minimum when it comes to my Folds of Honor involvement. Seeing the change in the lives of young kids around the country who have been shorted the chance at a normal family life has been amazing. I have been fortunate to travel to several Folds events around the country supporting the efforts of those local organizers, fellow PGA professionals and my step daughter Hannah who continues to speak for Folds all over the country. Her ability to stand in front of large groups of total strangers and talk about her father is inspiring. The other speakers I have met are the same. This past spring I was asked to speak for the 1st time on stage at an event to introduce another recipient and say a few words. Its humbling and inspiring. As mentioned above...if asked we do all we can for our veterans in the community...but this is where my focus is, with fundraising for Folds. Our efforts are getting others inspired and our goals for the next several years are aggressive. But...goals should be.