

2022 Special Awards Candidate Bio Form

Email *

dbell@americandunesgolfclub.com

Name of Nominee: *

W. Douglas Bell (Doug)

Award Nominated for: *

Patriot Award

Facility Employed at: *

American Dunes Golf Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

1991

Using the Special Awards Criteria (link in the email,) describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award: *

It is an honor to be nominated and considered for this award and certainly was an honor to be selected in the past as a winner in 2017 and 2020. I appreciate the consideration of the membership. I did not serve in the US Military but have been drawn to supporting those that have. My unique family life has placed me in a position to support them and the loss of 1st Lt Jeff Davis, my wife Ann's first husband and father to the children.

This position has turned into a path of support for others in the way Folds of Honor. Historically it began as many fellow professionals did with small fundraising efforts at the course. That turned into the large fundraising at Manistee National for many years and now the path to American Dunes Golf Club.

I am currently the General Manager at American Dunes and have been a proud member off the PGA since 1991.

In my current position I have guided the construction and opening of the course and clubhouse for Lt Col Dan Rooney and his partners. Overseeing all aspects on site for the course completion to management team staffing and setting up the operations plans. We have just completed our 1st operational season.

Our mission here is to spread the word of Folds of Honor to our customers and beyond, while supporting our Military member and Veterans as well as their families. Every day we open the doors it is Patriot Golf Day at American Dunes. With 100 percent of our Profits being donated to Folds we have a fundraising effort every day we are open.

Representing American Dunes and Folds of Honor on site, speaking with customers, veterans and VIPS's that visit the site is invigorating work. A large percentage of our clientele arrive to play the course with no knowledge of what Folds of Honor is or what the organization does. So daily discussions on educating many of our guests happens.

Outside our property lines I have been fortunate to speak for Folds at other events, both golf-related and non-golf related.

Regional and Nationally...2021 so far has allowed me to speak on behalf of Folds of Honor in

- Kansas City, MO to play in and speak with fundraisers at the Kansas City Chapter of Folds of Honor golf event.
- November will bring a scheduled speaking event in Detroit at the Michigan Freedom Centers 10th Anniversary near Veterans Day.
- November also has a scheduled trip to Dallas for the North Texas Chapter of Folds Gala to discuss American Dunes with those fundraisers in attendance.
- Several professionals from around the country now call to discuss fundraising events and how our team can assist them
- Working with Folds of Honor Chapters from Texas to Philadelphia, South Carolina and Minnesota and many more to coordinate the American Dunes story into their fundraising efforts.

Michigan Support...2021

- I am an active member of the Board for the Folds of Honor Michigan Chapter which guides and supports and assists local Michigan Events.
- Discussions with other professionals about raising funds for Folds and connecting them with the

proper information to assist their efforts.

- Speaking or attending other events such as the Fundraiser held at Washtenaw Country Club both as a player and as a guest speaker or simply a supportive site visit to shake hands and thank players who are fundraising in that clubs events. I am proud to be able to give advice or help in any way that I can for other professionals that call about how they can get involved and sharing success ideas.

Veterans and Active Military

I mentioned our mission and a big part of it is the support of those that visit our facility that served or are serving. To introduce daily at 1300 hours during our TAPS presentation veterans who come to experience the course, or the memorial is amazing. We have had veteran of all ages and been blessed to have many of our WW2 heroes on site and also here to play.

The letters and emails I receive daily expressing thanks for “doing” what we do and for “honoring our fallen” is an emotional part of every day. I am always humbled by the appreciation shown by those that served....who are thanking my team, when it really is meant the other way around.

Fundraising Support

What began years ago for me, to raise funds for Folds of Honor has turned into a much broader daily mission. Will we raise and contribute funds...yes and it will be an amazing amount.

But spreading the word and helping others is where I am headed now. Speaking to a Veteran onsite or customer from another state, taking the time to express the Mission of Folds...and then a week later to receive a large check in the mail from this person as a donation to Folds, along with a “thank you for our experience” note....is something I never thought I would experience but it happens daily.

Thank you for your consideration in this award.

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