

# 2023 Special Awards Candidate Bio Form

Please send this form back no later Friday, October 21, 2022.

If you were nominated for more than one award you must **submit a bio form for each award.**

Email \*

bbales@pga.com

Name of Nominee: \*

Bob Bales

Award Nominated for: \*

patriot

Facility Employed at: \*

Angels Crossing GC

Year Elected to Membership: \*

1995

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. \*

I currently serve on the PGA National HOPE Committee.

Since 2012 I have been the coordinator of the HOPE program at the Battle Creek VA Medical Center. In the time that the Battle Creek program has been operating we have provide lessons to over 300 veterans.

In 2000 when the Section decided to drop the annual PGA/VA Tournament from the section schedule, I was the President of the WMPGA and we decided to pick up the event in the Chapter. Since then I have acted as the tournament director and coordinated with the VA staff in arranging veteran caddies for the players as well a procured gifts for the caddies as well as donations for the golf programs at the facility. These gifts have include cash, golf cars, sets of clubs, mowing equipment as well as support for other facility recreation programs. All told the donations have totaled approximately \$40,000.00.

In 2021-2022 I did about 10 golf 101 clinics for inpatient veterans so that they would be able to use the golf facilities on the grounds during free time in their treatment programs.

I have participated in some form of fundraising for Folds of Honor since the inception of the program.

I previously was given this award in 2014 as well as earning the Player Development Award in 2010 and the Professional Development Award in 2009. I have served in every capacity for the WMPGA and the Michigan Section and am the current Honorary President.

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Email \*

jabbergolf@aol.com

Name of Nominee: \*

Dean Marks

Award Nominated for: \*

Patriot Award

Facility Employed at: \*

Milham Park Golf Club

Year Elected to Membership: \*

1997

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. \*

I have taught veterans at the VA Hospital in Battle Creek through the PGA HOPE program since 2013.

I have hired multiple veterans who have been in the PGA HOPE program and currently employ one as a head chef.

I promote Folds of Honor and Patriot Golf Days at my facilities and donate a minimum \$500 annually.

I have played in the Western Chapter VA Tournament 20 times. (and even broke par a couple times!)

- PGA Certified Professional in Instruction 2009
- Michigan PGA Junior Golf Leader award 2007, 2012
- Michigan PGA Player Development award 2017
- TPI Certified Level 2 Junior Coach 2010
- US Kids Golf Top 50 Kids Teacher 2008, 2009, 2010
- US Kids Golf Master Kids Teacher 2011
- US Kids Golf Certified Coach 2012
- US Kids Golf Certified Coach Level 2 2018
- Kalamazoo College Women's Golf Coach 2003-2020
- First Tee Level 1 Coach 2016
- USGA Rules of Golf Advanced Certification 2019

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Email \*

iziska@americandunesgolfclub.com

Name of Nominee: \*

Ian Ziska

Award Nominated for: \*

Patriot Award

Facility Employed at: \*

American Dunes Golf Club

Year Elected to Membership: \*

2001

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. \*

IAN ZISKA, PGA - PATRIOT AWARD

To be one of many PGA Members recognized for supporting our military, Folds of Honor, PGA Hope, and other Veteran Organizations is an honor, as many deserve this special award.

I'm grateful to be one of the PGA Professionals at American Dunes who works daily to support American Heroes and our service men and women. As the Head Golf Professional, I lead a team to deliver something extraordinary. At the same time, we showcase, educate, and support the Folds of Honor Foundation, as every day is Patriot Golf Day. But, more so, to be able to do what I love, support our mission, and serve our guests and American heroes is beyond humbling. Being a Patriot is not something you do. It's who you are and how you live. Expressing gratitude to our American Heroes, hosting guests playing golf's most heroic round, and supporting veterans through golf changes the lives of the families of heroes who paid the ultimate sacrifice. It's not a single thing or one event, it's every day, and I'm proud of the small part I play.

My effort to support American heroes, individuals, and families impacted by the Folds of Honor, is constant. I am actively supporting Folds of Honor Chapters across the country, providing them with the Most Patriotic Gear in Golf to help with their fundraising efforts. I also work closely with organizations and groups, including the VGA, providing high-level events and tournament formats and offering playing opportunities for veterans.

As we begin planning and preparations for our third season at American Dunes, my focus is steadfastly supporting and delivering a unique and memorable experience to guests, upholding our mission, and supporting Folds of Honor and PGA HOPE. Additionally, I will actively recruit and add fellow Patriots and Veterans to our team, striving to deliver an unmatched experience in golf, showcasing a remarkable Jack Nicklaus Signature Design while supporting our veterans at the birthplace of the Folds of Honor.

Thank you for the opportunity to share. I am humbled and grateful for the nomination for this extraordinary award.

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Email \*

jlindert@pgahq.com

Name of Nominee: \*

John Lindert

Award Nominated for: \*

Patriot Award

Facility Employed at: \*

Country Club of Lansing

Year Elected to Membership: \*

1983

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. \*

In 2010, as President of the Michigan PGA, I had the purview to establish committees. I felt it was important the Michigan PGA lead by example with Patriot Golf Day, as the genesis of the foundation was here in Michigan. I established the Patriot Golf Day Committee. Up to that point my facility was not really engaged in supporting the event or foundation. I decided that in order to raise awareness that I would play a golf marathon on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, with the goal being 100 holes. That first year I played 126 holes and raised \$3,000. Since that time I have continued to increase the number of holes until 2020 when I played 234 holes and raised \$8000. Last year, 2021 I played 202 holes and raised over \$20,000. This year, I once again played 202 holes and hope to raise in excess of \$10,000. Since 2010, I have played 2200 holes and raised over \$70,000.

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