

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 *

CJVANDENBERG54@GMAIL.COM

Name of Nominee: *

Charley Vandenberg

Award Nominated for: *

Bill Strausbaugh

Facility Employed at: *

Vandenberg Golf Academy

Year Elected to Membership: *

1981

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

Bill Strausbaugh ("Coach" to those who knew him) was the quintessential golf professional. A man of unquestioned character, Coach displayed compassion and concern for the welfare of all he met, guided, and represented. I am honored to be a candidate for this prestigious award based on the following criteria:

Mentoring - Over 40+ years as a PGA Professional (including 27 years as a head professional - now exclusively teaching), I employed and came alongside many fellow PGA members, assistants and instructors. My assistants continued on to top positions in our industry as both club professionals and teachers; I have shared my knowledge by serving as a featured speaker to many PGM students; crafted various instructional videos and written articles for both state and national associations and publications; and it continues to be my privilege to mentor fellow instructors by sharing my experience.

Recognition as a Person of Outstanding Integrity and Character that Reinforces the Values and Image of the Association - It is my sincere hope that my fellow professionals believe I have met and continue to meet this criteria.

Section Service and Activity - I served multiple years on the Michigan Section Education Committee as chairman, vice-chairman and member. From Section meeting conceptualization to completion, I have personally engaged speakers spanning many areas of expertise including top instructors Mike Bender, Mike Shannon, Jim McLean, and Dr. Gary Wiren. I headed the Michigan Section Teaching Committee as both chairman and member, and served on the Michigan Section Special Awards Committee where I completed my ninth year in 2021. I was the 2019 Chairman of the Michigan Teaching Summit and a committee member for the inaugural Michigan Teaching Summit in 2009. I also volunteered for several years at the PGA Senior Championship, assisted at the Folds of Honor Fundraiser, and was the featured speaker at Ferris PGM workshops and West Michigan Golf Show for multiple years.

Non-golf Community/Civic Activities - My most meaningful endeavor was the "Golf Marathon of Hope", an annual individual fundraiser (1997-2006) in which I played 400+ holes in 24 continuous hours per year, raising over \$500,000 for a local West Michigan homeless shelter (retiring due to injury). I have also participated in many golf events over the years raising money for charities, as well as continuing to support homeless shelters in various ways.

I appreciate your consideration for this exceptional award!

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