

# 2024 Patriot Award Candidate Bio Form

Please submit this form no later than **Friday, September 29, 2023 at 4pm.**

Email \*

hockey2005@tds.net

Name of Nominee: \*

Dean Kolstad

Facility Employed at: \*

Gull lake View Golf Resort

Year Elected to Membership: \*

2001

Please describe your involvement in the promotion and development of targeted player development programs for military personnel and veterans in 250 words or less: \*

Dean has been involved in the HOPE program since its inception here in Michigan, a past winner of this award in 2019, Dean's views have never changed since day 1. The 6 sessions in the Spring and the Fall are times of the year Dean really looks forward to. Being able to help the veterans, not only with golf, but talking to them about their life experiences is very rewarding. As President of the Section during the last 2 years we have increased the number of PGA golf professionals that have gone through the HOPE training program, as well as increasing the number of programs available throughout the state. PGA of America has also changed the HOPE program allowing veterans from all over the country to register and this has created waiting lists for people to join the program. Good or bad this is the direction that they chose it provides some challenges for our program in Battle Creek because we typically catered to the patients at the hospital, but thankfully those people are still able to attend as well as veterans from around Southwest Michigan.

Please describe your contribution to programs and events including PGA Hope and Patriot Golf Day which supports the Armed Forces and veterans in 250 words or less: \*

In 2023 we had a hockey game between the Michigan PGA professionals and the Detroit Red Wing Alumni. This is something Dean has wanted to do since being elected to office, with the help of so many people and sponsors we accomplished this goal with the playing of the hockey game. We supported 3 military organizations our PGA HOPE program, Project Yellow ribbon, and the Folds of Honor. Dean has also had a Military fundraiser golf outing at Bedford Valley for the last 10 years it started with 12 teams and has grown to between 20 and 25 teams the last few years. Dean splits the money raised between the Folds of Honor and the Battle Creek VA hospital, which they use for various programs throughout the facility.

Please describe your image, service and leadership in support of the military and how you inspire other PGA Professionals in their support of the military and veterans in 250 words or less: \*

I think Dean's image as a leader helps in getting people involved with supporting fundraisers geared towards supporting the Military. Dean has said many times that he would never ask someone to do something if he hasn't already done that himself. Being a Canadian citizen with a green card people always ask why do you have so much passion for this? my answer is always this find a veteran somewhere in your community and spend a half hour with them young or old you will hear passion and pride in their voice about what it means to have supported their country. I think other PGA professionals see this in Dean, his passion for what he does for the veterans, and the enjoyment he has in being involved in helping them in any way he can.

Please provide any additional information you would like to share in support of your nomination \*  
for the Patriot Award including awards or recognition you've received in conjunction with your  
support of the Armed Forces and veterans in 250 words or less:

Patriot award winner 2019

List any other PGA Section or National Awards you've received and the year(s) you received  
them (50 word limit): \*

- Section Vice President 2020
- Section Secretary 2019
- Patriot Award Winner 2019
- Director at Large PGA Section 2017-2018
- Director at Large PGA Section 2011-2012
- Western Chapter President 2011-2012
- Western Chapter Vice President 2009-2010
- Western Chapter Secretary 2007-2008
- Special Awards Committee 2007-2008
- Western Chapter Tournament Chair 2005-2006
- Western Chapter Sponsor Chair 2004

PGA hosted tournaments

- Michigan Senior Open (over 20 years)
- Michigan PGA state junior tournament (over 15 years)
- Playing ability test (over 10 years)

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