



**"African American Golfers Hall of Fame"
"African American Collegiate & Youth
Golfers Hall of Fame"**

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

"2017 African American Golf Legends Celebration in Palm Beach County"

Riviera Beach, Fla. (June 4, 2017) - The "13th Annual African American Golfer's Hall of Fame Conference, Golf Tournaments, Reception, Dinner, Auction & Awards Celebration" and the "7th Annual African American Collegiate & Youth Golfer Hall of Fame" were held in Palm Beach County, FL during the period May 25-29, 2017. The Annual AAGHOF/AAC&YGHOF Black Tie Optional Reception & Awards Dinner Celebration" was held on May 28, 2017 at Bear Lakes Country Club, 1901 Village Boulevard, West Palm Beach. "We were very pleased to partner with and have the support of the Palm Beach County Sports Commission, ICYG, Boca Bowl, The Honda Classic, Holiday Inn Express & Suites and others this year", said Malachi Knowles, Founder. "We are equally proud to support our premier international organization dedicated to the history of African Americans in the sport of golf" said George W. Linley, III, Executive Director, Palm Beach County Sports Commission.

"African American Collegiate & Youth Golfers Hall of Fame"

"2017 Youth Golfers of the Year"

Andrew Davis, Green Cove Springs Junior High School, Green Cove Springs, FL
Joseph Samuel Dent, Strawberry Crest High School, Tampa, FL
Joshua James Dent, Strawberry Crest High School, Tampa, FL
Christopher "Poppy" Lee, Morningside Academy, Port St. Lucie, FL
Nyla A. Sims, Palm Beach Lakes High School, West Palm Beach, FL

"2017 Collegiate Golfer of the Year"

Lauren Elizabeth Waller, Penn State University, Canonsburg, PA

"African American Golfers Hall of Fame"

"2017 Members"

Maulana Dotch, PGA/LPGA, Head Golf Professional, Cedar Crest Golf Course, Dallas, Texas;
Theodore Ernest "Ernie" Els*, PGA Member, Jupiter, FL;
Ira A. McGraw, Jr., PGA, General Manager/Director of Golf, Cedar Crest Golf Course, Dallas, Texas
John Paul Walton, USGTF Teaching Professional, Charleston, SC

"2017 Publisher of the Year"

Ramona Harriet, Publisher & Author, African American Golf Research Historian, Belleview, Florida

"2017 Leadership Awardee"

Paul Hiram Farquharson, Ambassador to the United Kingdom (Retired), Nassau, Bahamas

"2017 Trailblazer Awardee"

William Raymond "Bill" Neal, Owner & General Manager, Woodridge Golf Club, Mineral Wells, West Virginia

"2017 Founder's Awardees"

Allen J. "Frog" Wilson, Co-Founder, Tee Mac Golf, LLC, Baltimore, MD
Browns Mill Women's Golf Association (BMWGA), Atlanta, GA

"Some 2017 Highlights"

Indeed, our celebration was an exciting weekend of education, mentoring, business networking, two golf events, tours, shopping, reunion and storytelling. A "Welcome Reception & Salute to Local Golf Contributors" kicked it off on the evening of May 25th followed by our educational roundtable discussions: College Awareness, Scholarships, Careers Development & Hospitality Industry; Social Media: Don'ts & Do's; Golf Then, Now & In The Future; Golf Skills Development Clinic conducted by PGA Tour Legend Jim Dent @ Bear Lakes Country Club; Annual Legends Fish Fry & Reception and AAGHOF/AAC&YGHOF Black Tie Optional Reception, Auction, Awards Dinner & Induction Celebration.

Historically, Jim Dent assisted with the induction of his own twins, Joseph & Joshua into the AAC&YGHOF. Riviera Beach native Eddie Davis observed his son Andrew be inducted. Locals: Nyla Sims & Christopher "Poppy" Lee were also inducted. Very surprisingly, Bill Neal "stole the show" during his award acceptance and proposed on his knee to Judy Brown! To top off everything:

The AAGHOF/AAC&YGHOF Groundbreaking Ceremony for the **"ICYG Learning Center & Museum"** was held on Saturday, May 27, 2017!

This celebratory event has institutionalized the true recognition of the historic involvement of African Americans in "the growth of the game of golf" since the 1800's. The African American golfing community is at no loss for stories documenting its struggles, tragedies and ultimate triumphs. Little has been done, however, to recognize the accomplishments of those who *really paved the way* for today's "Black Golfers." The AAGHOF also believes in its youth and feels strongly that golf's future cannot be passed from its "Legends" to our "Youth" unless they are included and honored annually during this event—hence the AAC&YGHOF was founded.

Inner City Youth Golfers', Inc. (ICYG) founder, Malachi Knowles established this annual event to give its African American Legends of Golf and humanitarians an opportunity to be recognized for their contributions to the sport, to continue being role models to our youth, to network with their peers, to interact and share their own stories about golf "then and now." The ultimate purpose of the AAGHOF is to honor the legacy and achievements of African Americans in the game of golf and build a permanent place – "ICYG Learning Center & Museum" - for the world to see their collective contributions. **SAVE THESE DATES: MAY 24-28, 2018!** Thanks for your support! *To be rescheduled!

"Celebrating the Accomplishments of Yesterday While Paving the Way for Tomorrow!"