



# African American Golfers Hall of Fame

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

## “The 2011 African American Golfers Hall of Fame Celebration Was A Great Success”

West Palm Beach, Fla. (June 3, 2011) - The AAGHOF hosted its “7<sup>th</sup> Annual African American Golfer’s Hall of Fame Conference, Golf Tournaments, Reception, Dinner, Auction & Awards Celebration” at the Palm Beach Gardens Marriott, 4000 RCA Boulevard, Palm Beach Gardens, FL (561) 622-8888 during the period May 26-30, 2011. The Annual AAGHOF Black Tie Optional Reception & Awards Dinner Celebration” was held on May 29, 2011 at the Marriott.

This celebratory event continues to institutionalize the true recognition of the historic involvement 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.” Therefore, 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 for the world to see their collective contributions.

Inner City Youth Golfers’, Inc. established the AAGHOF annual event in order to give African-American Legends of Golf 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.”

This year’s event was highlighted with a very informative roundtable: “Golf Then, Now & In The Future” - James Garvin, Chair, AAGHOF Collegiate & Youth Golfers Hall of Fame & President, Golf Course Specialist, Inc. w/Dr. Ernest Boger, University of MD Eastern Shore, Legends & Youth Golfers and Stanley Wilson, Jr., Assistant Golf Professional, Bear Lakes Country Club/Youth Golf Advisor, ICYG.

Legendary Professional Golfer, Bob Murphy conducted a youth/parent golf clinic with more than 100 participants followed by the Legends “Say NO To Drugs – Say YES To Education, Culture & Golf” Youth/Parent Golf Orientation, Fun Festival & Clinic @ Dyer Park Pavilion, West Palm Beach, FL. The Legends Scholarship Golf Tournament was held at Palm Beach Gardens Municipal Golf Course & its Celebrity Invitational Golf Tournament (Two-Person Team Scramble) was held at West Palm Beach Golf Course.

Scott Walker, Golf Channel Anchor, served as the Master of Ceremony for the “Annual Black Tie Optional Reception, Auction, Awards Dinner & Induction Celebration on the closing evening. Priscilla A. Taylor, Palm Beach County Commissioner (District 7) welcomed everyone. We were also honored with a very special message from Jack W. & Barbara Nicklaus.

The most important thing that happened during the event was the AAGHOF’s demonstration of its commitment to its youth. It believes in its youth! The AAGHOF feels very strongly that golf’s future cannot be passed from its “Legends” to our “Youth” unless they are included and honored annually during this event. Therefore the inaugural “Youth Golfer of The Year” – awards were therefore given to: Evette F. Booker, Detroit, Michigan; Norris Brown, Salisbury, MD; Somalia Eva Jones, Cincinnati, Ohio; Imani Kai Poindexter, Washington, DC; Amari Riley, Chula Vista, CA; & Adrian Stewart, Bowie, MD.

AAGHOF Founder Malachi Knowles congratulated and inducted all of the 2011 selectees: “Members” - James “Junior” Walker, Los Angeles, CA; Vernice Turner\* & Helen Webb Harris\*, Founder, Wake-Robin Golf Club, Inc.; “Humanitarian Awardee” - Robert “Bob” Murphy, Boynton Beach, FL; “Leadership Awardees” – U.S. Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Albany, GA; U.S. Congressman Chaka Fattah, Philadelphia, PA & Eddie N. Williams, Washington, DC; “Pioneer of the Year” - Exie Shackelford Ochier, St Augustine, FL; “Golf Publisher of the Year” - Lorraine M. Harris, The Villages, FL; “Legacy Awardee” - James E. Simpson, West Palm Beach, FL; “Founders Awardees” - Autocrat Golf Club, Inc., New Orleans, LA; Pro-Duffers USA, Inc. & William Brooks, Detroit, Michigan.

**“CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF YESTERDAY WHILE PAVING THE WAY FOR TOMORROW!”**



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Don't forget to visit [www.africanamericangolfershalloffame.com](http://www.africanamericangolfershalloffame.com) to view the 2011 pictures and the 2012 registration information, tentative schedule, fees and sponsorship information for the May 24-28, 2012 Celebration. Call us at (561) 844-8774 for further information!

The "Inaugural Inductees" from 2005 were: Gordon Brown, Sr., San Diego, CA; Pete Brown, Dayton, OH; Arthur L. Davis, Sr., West Palm Beach, FL; Renee Fluker, Detroit, Mich; Selina Johnson, Detroit, Mich; Malachi Knowles, Riviera Beach, FL and William Powell, East Canton, OH. Posthumously inducted were Althea Gibson; Dr. George F. Grant, Herman Mitchell, Ted "Rags" Rhodes and John Shippen. The 2005 "Humanitarian Award" recipients were Gary Player, Johannesburg, South Africa; Richard F. Sebastian and Julius Taylor, Ph.D., Baltimore, MD. The 2006 Award Recipients were: Thomas A. Hart, Sr., Ph.D., Washington, DC; Reese A. Jarrett, San Diego, CA and Calvin Goode, Phoenix, AZ. The 2007 Humanitarian Awardees were: Jack W. & Barbara Nicklaus, North Palm Beach, FL; William "Bill" Shack, Yucca Valley, CA and Helen Wilkes, Palm Beach, FL.

The 2006 class included: Jim Dent, Tampa, FL; William "Bill" Dickey, Phoenix, AZ; Alton Duhon, Los Angeles, CA; James Garvin, Jr., Washington, DC; LaJean W. Gould, Atlanta, GA; Calvin Peete, Ponte Vedra, FL; Julius Richardson\*, Chicago, ILL; Peggy Rhodes-White, Chicago, ILL and William "Bill" Wright, Los Angeles, CA. Ann Gregory, Las Vegas, NV was posthumously inducted.

The 2007 class included: Agatha M. Delancy, Nassau, The Bahamas; Lee Elder, San Diego, CA; Charlie Owens, Tampa, FL and Renee Powell, East Canton, Ohio. Joseph M. Bartholemew and John Roux, New Orleans, LA were inducted posthumously. Other 2007 awardees were: F. Malcolm Cunningham, Sr. – Pioneer Award; Publisher of the Year – Calvin H. Sinnette, MD; Golf Administrator of the Year – Dennis Morgan; Legacy Awardees – Lavelle "Reds" Anderson, Tim Irving and Dave Stroman, Washington, DC; Founder Awardees – Dr. George H. Grace, Miami, FL; Robert Brock, Albuquerque, New Mexico and Dwayne M. Murray, Baton Rouge, LA & Christopher Hill, Metropolitan Kappa Youth Foundation, Inc. – Youth Golf Initiative @ Langston Golf Course, Washington, DC. \*Deceased.

The 2008 selectees were: James W. Black, Charlotte, NC; George G. G. Johnson, Louisville, KY; Eddie Payton, Jackson, MS; Jimmy Lee "Jim" Thorpe, Heathrow, FL; "Humanitarian Awardees": Dari & Billy Bowman, Tequesta, FL; "Pioneers": Hercules O. Pitts, Upper Marlboro, MD; Earl G. Graves, Sr., New York, NY; "Publisher of the Year": Pete McDaniel, FL, Orlando, FL; "Golf Administrator of the Year": Avis L. Brown Riley, San Diego, CA; "Mother – Daughter Golfers of the Year": Linda Broadus & Dara Broadus, Atlanta, GA; "Father – Son Golfers of the Year": Bobby Brown, Shreveport, LA–Aric Brown, Chicago; "Founder Awardees": Florida Governor Charlie Crist, Tallahassee, FL; Helen Cluett, Palm Beach, FL and "Legacy Awardee": Hercules L. "Pops" Joyner, Dallas, TX (Deceased).

The 2009 awardees were: "Founders Award" - Congressman Woman Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC); "Golf Course Management Excellence Award", Golf Course Specialists, Inc.; "Pioneer Awardees": Wake Robin Golf Club, Inc. Harold LeClair Ickes, Former Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior and U.S. Congressman John Mercer Langston were inducted posthumously.

The 2010 selectees: "Members" - Pearl Carey, Seaside, CA\*; LaRee Pearl Sugg, Richmond, VA; "Inaugural AAGHOF Leadership Awardees" – U.S. House Majority Whip, James E. Clyburn, Charleston, SC; U.S. Congressman William Lacy Clay, Jr., St. Louis, MO; "2010 Pioneer" - Eugene Jack Adderley, Nassau, The Bahamas\*; "2010 Founders Awardees" - Bahamas Golf Federation Central Ladies Division; Chicago Women's Golf Club; University of MD Eastern Shore, PGA Golf Management Degree Program and Herbert "Turk" Walker, Dayton, Ohio.

\*Posthumously

Mk: 06/03/11

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