



African American Golfers Hall of Fame
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Press Release

For Immediate Release

“Gary Player to Keynote the African American Golfers Hall of Fame”

Legendary Golfer Gary Player will give the keynote address for the “3rd Annual African American Golfers Hall of Fame” black tie dinner on May 28, 2007 at the Palm Beach Gardens Marriott, Palm Beach Gardens, FL. At a time when most countries were shunning South Africa, Player brought African American athletes like Lee Elder, first African American to play in the Masters Tournament, to his country to try to make people understand that there should be equality on and off the playing field. Mr. Player was indeed unanimously selected to receive the “2005 AAGHOF Humanitarian Award.”

Inner City Youth Golfers’, Inc. (ICYG), a tax-exempt charitable organization (Tax ID # 65-0978868) established the AAGHOF annual event in order to give the “African-American Legends of Golf an opportunity to 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 celebratory event has institutionalized the true recognition of our 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 minority golfers.

The specific purpose of the AAGHOF is to honor the legacy and achievements of African Americans in the game of golf. The specific goals are to establish a place where the rich, colorful and proud history of African Americans in golf is specifically showcased and displayed for the world to see; to work diligently to find, review, and honor those African Americans who have made a lasting and positive contribution to golf and to their communities; to provide an interactive educational learning experience for all young and senior golfers; to acquire and assemble the most comprehensive collection of African American golf memorabilia in the world and to purchase land and build a permanent museum for all to enjoy for generations to come.

The AAGHOF 2007 Class members are: Joseph Manual Bartholemew*, New Orleans, LA; Rafe Botts, Palm Springs, CA; Lee Elder, Pompano, Florida; Charlie Owens, Tampa, FL; Renee Powell, East Canton, Ohio and John Roux*, New Orleans, LA. The 2007 Humanitarian Award recipients are: Jack & Barbara Nicklaus, North Palm Beach, FL; William “Bill” Shack, Yucca Valley, CA and Helen Wilkes, Palm Beach, FL.

The Board of Governors also established a prestigious plaque to honor those legendary African Americans who are ninety (90) years or older who have “lived a life of golf.” The inaugural Legacy Award recipients are Lavelle “Reds” Anderson, Tim Irving and Dave Stroman. These stately gentlemen represent more than “two hundred and seventy eight years of knowledge about golf.” They still play golf at Jimmy Garvin’s Langston Golf Course in Washington, DC. Other 2007 awardees are: Publisher of the Year, Calvin H. Sinnette, M.D.; Golf Administrator of the Year, Dennis C. Morgan, President, Midwest Golf Association; F. Malcolm Cunningham, Sr., Pioneer Award and Robert Brock, Founders Award.

The 2007 class will join “Inaugural Inductees” 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 Rhodes and John Shippen. 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, Nevada was posthumously inducted.

The 2005 “Humanitarian Award” recipients were Gary Player, South Africa; Richard F. Sebastian and Dr. Julius Taylor, Baltimore, MD and 2006 recipients were: Thomas A. Hart, Sr., Washington, DC; Reese A. Jarrett, San Diego, California and Calvin Goode, Phoenix, Arizona.

Other AAGHOF celebration activities scheduled during the period May 25-28, 2007 are:

- The Essie Knowles Invitational Golf Open, May 25, 2007 at the Links at Madison Green, Royal Palm Beach, FL (The proceeds will be used to start an “inner city teen girls cancer education and prevention initiative.);
- Youth Golf Day: Youth from Washington, DC, Detroit, Michigan and Bahamas Federation of Golf will be challenged on May 26, 2007 by Palm Beach County Youth and provided a countywide afternoon golf clinic led by Calvin Peete with other African American Legends of Golf at the Village Golf Club, Royal Palm Beach;
- AAGHOF Legends Golf Tournament and Auction at West Palm Beach Golf Course, May 28, 2007.

Founder Malachi Knowles also announced that The Honorable Priscilla Taylor, FL District 84 State Representative; Professional Golfer Calvin Peete, Class of 2006 and Sid Dinerstein, Chairman, Palm Beach County Republican Party will serve as Honorary Chairpersons. Registration is currently available online at www.africanamericangolfershalloffame.com. For any other information, please email icyginc@aol.com or call (561) 844-8774. *Deceased.

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