

Hall of Fame Inductee

David Meador

B1 Blind Golfer



David Meador was an avid high school athlete, participating in football, basketball, track, and golf. Growing up in Southern Illinois, he was an All North Egypt Conference Center on the 1965 football team that finished with an 8-1 record and won the NEC Championship. And in golf, he already had two hole-in-ones to his credit.

In 1966, at age 18, David lost his eyesight in an automobile accident. He received rehabilitation training at the Illinois Visually Handicapped Institute in Chicago. Several weeks after his return home, his father - who had never heard of blind golf - had the idea to take him to their town's golf course. He put a 7 iron in David's hand and put the head of the club behind the ball. When David swung and made contact, he realized losing his sight would not keep him from the game, and his whole world opened back up. Ten years after losing his sight, David returned to his home course and made his third hole-in-one on that same hole.

He met his wife of 52 years, Connie, in college at Southern Illinois University, where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Communications. They got married a week after college graduation and then moved to Chicago where David

earned his Master's Degree in Industrial Relations at Loyola University and worked as a Personnel Interviewer at Bankers Life and Casualty in Chicago. They then moved to Nashville in 1976 where he and Connie started their family including two daughters and now four grandchildren. David worked in the insurance industry at Northwestern Mutual, where he set a new agency record of selling at least one policy per week for 572 consecutive weeks.

After connecting with the USBGA, David won his first national tournament in a playoff with Pat Browne Jr. in the 1977 National Championship at Firestone Country Club. In following years, he finished second to Pat's first more times than he'd like to admit. David won the Guiding Eyes Classic twice in Mount Kisco, and he was back as USBGA champion for three consecutive years from 2011 through 2013. He represented the United States on the 1993 Stewart Cup team where the U.S. won a 9-3 victory over Great Britain, and he also represented his country in the International Blind Golf tournament a few years later in Japan. His average score was around 110, with a career low of 88.

He is humbled to have been honored with many awards over the years. He was inducted into his high school's Hall of Fame in 1996. In 2003, he received the Kaia Jergenson Courage Award from the Nashville Sports Council. In 2011, he was inducted into the Tennessee Golf Hall of Fame. In 2013, the Golf Writers Association of America presented him with the Ben Hogan Award at the Masters. In 2014, he received the Bonnie Sloane Courage Award from the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame. In 2015, he was inducted into the Robert E. Musto Tennessee Insurance Hall of Fame.

David believes in the power of serving others, evidenced by his work with organizations including Tennessee Junior Blind Golf, Goodwill Industries, and the Tennessee Society to Prevent Blindness, to name a few.

David advocated for the USBGA helping secure the support of Disney for National Championships at Lake Buena Vista Golf Club from 1990 through 1996. He served on the Board of Directors of the USBGA from 2009 through 2011 and was president of the organization in 2011.

On the golf course and in life, he has fought hard - including beating cancer at age 24 and again at 54. After retiring from Northwestern Mutual in 2002, David began a natural follow-up career in motivational speaking. To reflect on his struggles and triumph throughout his life, David wrote and published his 2010 autobiography, *Broken Eyes, Unbroken Spirit*.

The United States Blind Golf Association is proud to recognize and induct David Meador into its 2025 class of the Hall of Fame.