



National Veterans TEE Tournament

TEE TIMES

Training—Exposure—Experience

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2011 National Veterans TEE Tournament Winners

Tom Heitzman Golf Buddy of the Year Award

Golf buddies play a critical role out on the golf courses. Like a caddy at a private golf course, they sometimes carry the equipment, offer insightful advice and give moral support. But they do MUCH more. They can be the eyes, ears and legs for our golfers. Whether they are measuring the distance to a hole, searching for lost balls, looking for water, carrying meal trays or doing anything else needed, they are superstars. The 2011 Golf Buddy of the Year is **Neil McFarland**, a pharmacist at the Iowa City VA Medical Center. He has been volunteering at the TEE Tournament since 1999. He was a golf buddy for the Red Team at Lake MacBride this year and is a recreational golfer who looks forward to this event every year.

Vonnie Gould Volunteer Award

This year, some 400 volunteers and VA staff helped with everything from transportation and meals, to alternate activities and dog walking. Without their efforts, the event couldn't happen. With Veterans in his heart and a commitment to serving our Nation's heroes, **Wes Hodgson** is this year's Vonnie Gould Award winner (as well as our event poster boy)! Wes is from the Central Iowa Health Care System in Des Moines, where he works as a low vision mobility specialist. Many say he is the example of the perfect volunteer—no job is too big or too small for him. Wes not only is a great volunteer, he also trains new volunteers to better assist our blind veterans which helps make this event so successful.

Companion of the Year - Cookie Monster Award

Companions are very important people at the National Veterans TEE Tournament. In fact, this tournament is the only VA special event that offers the opportunity for Companions to have their own schedule of fun activities. They are spouses, other family members, or caregivers and are the individuals who assist our participants back home on a daily basis. The TEE Tournament is our opportunity to give back to these amazing people. This year's award honors our Companion of the Year, **Shirley Dunston**, wife of the late Raleigh Dunston, whom she just lost a week and a half ago. But Shirley was determined to participate in order to celebrate Raleigh's life with the friends who have become her extended family. Shirley shares her appreciation of the VA care Raleigh received during his life and the support provided to her.

Wayne Earl/Hampton Hill Participant of the Year Award

Every year at the end of the Tournament, one participant is selected to receive this special award. The winner is selected for being the most inspirational person by exhibiting the qualities of fitness, sportsmanship and competitive skill, and for serving as an example to other Veterans both on or off the golf course. The award is named for two former TEE Tournament participants, the late Wayne Earl and Hampton Hill, who were instrumental in helping plan and support the Tournament in the early years. **Tim Terrell** is the 2011 Participant of the Year winner. Tim has been coming to the TEE Tournament since it began 18 years ago. He is an Army Veteran from Keosauqua, Iowa who enjoys the opportunity to play golf at TEE Tournament. Just a side note—Tim's golf buddy is award winner Neil McFarland (who has been golf buddy for Tim for the last 15 years!)



Participants can get copies of photos and newsletters from this week on the TEE Tournament Website at: www.tee.va.gov

If you have problems printing your photos, please contact Annie Tuttle at 909-583-6193.