



# PGA™

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PGA GOLF CLUB AND PGA LEARNING CENTER TO HOLD PATRIOT GOLF DAY WEEKEND FESTIVITIES WITH PLENTY OF PAGEANTRY AND IN GRAND STYLE**

***Ceremonies to Officially Mark Reopening of both Facilities – PGA of America CEO Joe Steranka, Port St. Lucie Mayor Patricia Christensen; and Ret. Maj. Ed Pelido Slated to Speak***

PALM BEACH GARDENS, FLA. – The PGA Golf Club and PGA Learning Center in Port St. Lucie, Fla., will celebrate their official grand reopening (following a short closure due to Tropical Storm Fay) by proudly participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Patriot Golf Day Weekend, Sat. Aug. 30-Mon. Sept. 1. Patriot Golf Day events raise funds for the Folds of Honor Foundation, which provides academic scholarships to the families of those military veterans who have become disabled or lost their lives in the line of duty.

“We consider it a tremendous honor and a privilege to host Patriot Golf Day events at the PGA Golf Club and PGA Learning Center this Labor Day Weekend,” said Bob Baldassari, PGA general manager for PGA Village, which includes the PGA Golf Club, PGA Learning Center and PGA Historical Center, and is ranked as one of the “75 Best Golf Resorts” by *Golf Digest*. “Patriot Golf Day is extra special this year, as we once again set out to raise funds for the families of those who have given everything. In addition, the celebration will also signal the grand reopening of our wonderful golf facilities. So, we invite everyone out to the PGA Golf Club and PGA Learning Center to join in the fun.”

The Patriot Golf Day Weekend activities include: the Opening Ceremonies, John Shimkonis Memorial Medal, Family Events and Flag Day Tournament at the PGA Golf Club; and a Family Fun Day at the PGA Learning Center.

- **Opening Ceremonies: PGA Golf Club -- Sat. Aug. 30 -- 7:45 a.m.-9:00 a.m.** Patriot Golf Day Opening Ceremonies will feature PGA of America Chief Executive Officer Joe Steranka; Mayor Patricia Christensen; Ret. Maj. Ed Pelido, executive director of the Folds of Honor Foundation; and honored veterans of military operations. There will be a call to the colors; “21 Golf Ball Salute;” bagpiper; U.S. Coast Guard Amphibious Vehicle; speeches from the VIPs and dignitaries; and plenty of pageantry.
- **John Shimkonis Memorial Medal Tournament: PGA Golf Club – Sat. Aug. 30 – 9 a.m.-close** This 18-hole, shotgun event, named in honor of the first PGA Professional to give his life while fighting for his country during WWII, will use the 4-person scramble format. Proceeds from the entry fee of \$65 will benefit the Folds of Honor Foundation and cover: Golf, golf car, continental breakfast, BBQ lunch and prizes for top finishers!

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- **Family Events: PGA Learning Center -- Sat. Aug. 30 – 10 a.m. –close** Adults and juniors alike can enjoy a 10-minute golf lesson; club fitting; demonstration of special golf fitness exercises; bid on a silent auction for a limited edition Patriot Golf Day Driver by TaylorMade; attempt the “Impossible Putt” for prizes; and shop for merchandise. Juniors can also participate in a Flag Tournament on the 3-hole short course. Admission is free for families that make a minimum \$5 donation to the Folds of Honor Foundation.
- **Family Fun Day: PGA Golf Club -- Sun. Aug. 31 – 3 p.m.-6 p.m.** On our 6-hole short course, we will stage a Family Skills Challenge with a putting contest and a “Big Break-style” glass breaking challenge. While no fee will be charged for the family event, we will accept donations for the Folds of Honor Foundation. Registration will be made on a first-come, first-served basis at a table located adjacent to the PGA Golf Club’s clock tower
- **Flag Day Tournament: PGA Golf Club -- Labor Day – All day long** Come celebrate the traditional end of summer by playing in the PGA Golf Club’s 18-hole, tee times Flag Day event. Each participant that donates \$5 to the Folds of Honor Foundation will receive a small American flag. When the player reaches the point on the golf course when their score reflects par plus their handicap, they will plant their flag. If a player finishes the round and still has not exceeded this score, they will continue playing until they reach that total. The competitor whose flag is planted the furthest wins. Golf fees will be set at a special Monday rate (rather than the holiday rate).

**Please call 800-800-GOLF (4653) or visit [www.pgavillage.com](http://www.pgavillage.com) for tee times, reservations and to participate. The PGA Golf Club and PGA Learning Center are located off of I-95 Exit #121.**

### **About PGA Village**

The Ryder, Wanamaker and Dye Courses form a trio of world-class public courses at the PGA Golf Club, at PGA Village in Port St. Lucie, Fla. Named by *Golf Digest* as one of the “75 Best Golf Resorts in North America” for 2007-08, PGA Village also features the award-winning, 35-acre PGA Learning Center golf park and PGA Historical Center golf museum. The PGA Golf Club exists to be one of the premier daily fee facilities in America, and to serve as a home club for our 28,000 PGA Professionals. For more information, please visit [www.pgavillage.com](http://www.pgavillage.com).

### **About The PGA of America**

Since 1916, The PGA of America’s mission has been twofold; to establish and elevate the standards of the profession and to grow interest and participation in the game of golf. By establishing and elevating the standards of the golf profession through world-class education, career services, marketing and research programs, the Association enables PGA Professionals to maximize their performance in their respective career paths and showcases them as experts in the game and in the \$76 billion golf industry.

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By creating and delivering dramatic world-class championships and exciting and enjoyable golf promotions that are viewed as the best of their class in the golf industry, The PGA of America elevates the public's interest in the game, the desire to play more golf, and ensures accessibility to the game for everyone, everywhere.

The PGA of America brand represents the very best in golf.

### **About Patriot Golf Day**

Patriot Golf Day, the primary fund-raiser for the Folds of Honor Foundation, was created by Major Dan Rooney, a PGA Professional and USGA member from Broken Arrow, Okla. On September 1, 2007 thousands of golfers across the nation added \$1 to their greens fees or made a donation at their golf club in support of this inaugural event. More than \$1.1 million was raised to support the families of veterans who have been injured or perished in the line of duty in Iraq or Afghanistan.

This year, Patriot Golf Day will take place during the extended Labor Day weekend (Aug. 29 – Sept. 1) with Rooney once again at the front to lead the mission before he reports for his third tour of duty in Iraq as an F-16 pilot in the 125th Fighter Squadron of the Oklahoma Air National Guard.

Patriot Golf Day is jointly supported by the PGA of America and the United States Golf Association and has also garnered tremendous support from many of the country's leading golf television personalities, manufacturers, media outlets and organizations.

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*The PGA of America, 100 Avenue of the Champions, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418*