



# PGA

South Florida Section

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**2009 SFPGA PATRIOT GOLF DAY EFFORTS**  
*PGA GOLF CLUB PREPARES TO HOST AN ACTION  
PACKED PATRIOT GOLF DAY WEEKEND*

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. – In 2007, Major Dan Rooney, a F-16 fighter pilot in the Oklahoma National Guard as well as a PGA Professional decided it was time to do something special and give back to all those who fight for our country day in and day out. Rooney, Founder of Patriot Golf Day, joined forces with the PGA of America and in two years has raised more than 3.1 million dollars to benefit the Folds of Honor Foundation.

Patriot Golf Day is an opportunity for golf facilities nationwide to help raise money for our troops and their families. Golf facilities nationwide are asked to collect a minimum \$1 donation on rounds of golf or to create fun programs and events to raise funds for the families who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Donations to the Folds of Honor Foundation help provide post secondary educational scholarships for children and spouses of military service men and women killed or disabled while serving our great nation.

Bob Baldassari, PGA General Manager at PGA Village, raised an impressive \$5,000 for Patriot Golf Day in 2008 by creating a community event full of activities, live entertainment and educational seminars pertaining to the purpose and significance of Patriot Golf Day. PGA Golf Club's 2009 Patriot Golf Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 5th and shaping up to be an even bigger and more inspiring event.

"I feel that making Patriot Golf Day a spectacular event is my chance to serve," said Baldassari. "I am so grateful and want to give back to soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice."

PGA Golf Club's 2009 Patriot Golf Day activities will commence with a parade to include the Color Guards from American Legion Post #318, Patrick Air Force Base, local Junior ROTC high school groups, members of the Military Officers Association of America as well as the Centennial High School Band to provide music during the procession. The parade will conclude with a special flag raising ceremony and the singing of the National Anthem.

Following the flag ceremony Port St. Lucie Mayor Patricia Christensen, U.S. Marine Corps Brigadier General Richard Vercauteren and Folds of Honor Executive Director Major Ed Pulido and other political figures will all have a chance to speak to those in attendance. PGA Master Professional Kevin Compare will also conduct a golf shot exhibition.

Several golf activities are planned for the weekend including the John Shimkonis Golf Tournament, honoring the first PGA member to die in the line of duty, and the traditional "21 Golf Ball Salute," where veterans hit a tee shot from the back of the clubhouse over the 18<sup>th</sup> hole of the PGA Golf Club's Wanamaker Course. What a sight to see!

Bob has been an incredible supporter of Patriot Golf Day, raising the bar to new levels each year. We thank him for his efforts and enthusiasm! Be sure to visit [www.pgavillage.com](http://www.pgavillage.com) or call (800) 800-GOLF for the full agenda and register for the event.

The South Florida PGA, one of 41 PGA Section offices throughout the United States, is a not-for-profit organization that promotes the game of golf while continuing to enhance the standards of the profession. The South Florida Section is one link in the grass-roots network used to facilitate communication amongst the nation's 25 million amateur golfers and the PGA's 28,000 members. The South Florida Section PGA is comprised of over 1,600 men and women PGA Professionals dedicated to growing participation in the game of golf.

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