



PGA H.O.P.E.

“HELPING OUR PATRIOTS EVERYWHERE”



PGATM

Foundation



THE PGA OF AMERICA'S tradition of commitment to the United States Military traces back to World War I, when the Association first purchased ambulances to support our nation's troops. As well, during World War II, PGA members built golf ranges and courses at military hospitals and conducted war bond drives to further the cause.

Today, The PGA's partnership with the military continues to thrive through educational programs and the support of active golf participation as part of the rehabilitation process for Wounded Warriors and Veterans. This relationship represents a special commitment to our nation's military that The PGA maintains with great pride, and the bond has never been stronger than it is today.

Currently there are more than 1.3 million active duty military personnel worldwide, while over 300,000 servicemen and women are returning from the current conflicts overseas with some form of disability. In addition, there are more than 23 million military veterans in the United States, of which, there are over 6 million veterans who are disabled to some extent.

The PGA Foundation's program entitled "PGA H.O.P.E." - (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) is an extension of The PGA's Wounded Warrior strategy that was implemented at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C.; Brooks Army Medical Center in San Antonio; and Balboa Naval Medical Center in San Diego, in 2007.

"PGA H.O.P.E." is a five-week program designed to introduce golf to veterans with disabilities, in order to enhance their mental, social, physical and emotional well-being. The PGA Foundation, regional PGA Sections and PGA Professionals nationwide are working with local VA hospitals to initiate this program.

The goal is to introduce golf to the veterans with disabilities as an activity to assist them with their progress in rehabilitation, along with helping them to assimilate back into the mainstream of their community, as well into everyday life via:

- A partnership with VA medical center therapists to address the veteran's disability.
- Acclimation of the military veteran to the sport of golf.
- Golf instruction, playing opportunities and social events for the participants.



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THE EXAMPLES OF HOW PGA H.O.P.E. MAKES A POSITIVE IMPACT IN LIVES OF OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS AND VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES ARE VOICED THROUGH THOSE WHO WERE INVOLVED OR PARTICIPATED IN THESE TYPES OF PROGRAMS AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL:

"One of my concerns is that people say that this is just golf. It is not just golf, it is more than golf...Golf is a venue again to create a positive environment with positive experiences. I see golf as a particularly effective area in bringing the veterans back to engaging in activities that are of interest and that really get them to be physical again. The direct results are increased self-esteem and increased self-confidence. The experiences the veterans have had with the disability or injuries cannot be erased, but certainly anything we can do for these veterans, to enhance their quality of life, is critical."

- Dr. Michael Hall, neuropsychologist,
Iowa VA Medical Center, in Iowa City

"The program at the VA Medical Center has been life changing. I used to be embarrassed and reclusive regarding my vision impairment. But between the program at the Center and the golf programs at the nearby First Tee of Palm Beach County, I now know that I will be able to live a full and happy life."

- West Palm Beach VA Medical Center's Blind Rehabilitation Program Patient
(name withheld due to privacy law requirements)





The PGA Foundation invites you to join us by
“Improving Lives Through Golf”

For further information on how you can become a PGA Foundation Partner supporting PGA H.O.P.E., please contact Steve Jubb, PGA at The PGA Foundation at (888) 532-6662 or sjubb@pgahq.com.

THE PGA FOUNDATION

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