



2015 ANNUAL REVIEW

# SALUTE MILITARY **GOLF** ASSOCIATION

Empowering Wounded Veterans One Fairway At A Time



# OUR MISSION

The Salute Military Golf Association (SMGA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, dedicated to providing rehabilitative golf experiences and family inclusive golf opportunities for post-9/11 wounded war veterans in an effort to improve the quality of life for these American heroes. Eligible veterans include those wounded or injured in post-9/11 military operations, including those with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and/or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Jamie Winslow**

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## SMGA STAFF

**Dan Pflieger** | Executive Director

**Jina Myers** | Manager Communications, Marketing and Events



# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

If taught and played the right way  
golf can serve as a vehicle for rehabilitation  
and a foundation for rebuilding  
one's life purpose.

Dear Friends,

The Salute Military Golf Association was founded for the sole purpose of bringing the rehabilitative benefits of the game of golf to post-9/11 wounded and injured veterans. My co-founder, Jim Estes, and I formed the SMGA because we appreciated the dedication of those who served in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere to secure the liberties we too often take for granted. Based on our own life experiences, and after nine years of SMGA's existence, we've seen time and again that golf can be more than a game; if taught and played the right way, golf can serve as a vehicle for recovery.

In 2015, not only were we able to build on the successes of the past, but the SMGA also laid the foundation for structured growth in the future. With the addition of Honolulu, Hawaii, SMGA Warrior Golf Clinics were held at nine chapter and affiliate locations nationwide, and our American Golfer Program grew from an annual total of 60 veterans to 95 warrior golfers. In total, we issued 200 sets of custom-fitted golf club sets to eligible post-9/11 wounded and injured veterans, conducted more than 100 golf clinics, provided golf course access that totaled over 1000 rounds of free golf, and extended SMGA's reach to at least 30 states.

Although the core of the SMGA program resides in our eight-week clinic series and American Golfer Program, golf experiences such as trips to the Masters Tournament and Hootie and the Blowfish Monday After the Masters Celebrity Pro-Am and partnerships with TaylorMade/Adidas Golf did much to solidify golf as a lifelong pursuit for many of our SMGA warrior golfers.

As we approach our 10th anniversary in 2016, the SMGA has never been better positioned to empower wounded veterans one fairway at a time.

Greens and Fairways,

*James D. Winslow*

James D. Winslow  
SMGA Co-Founder and President

# OUR PROGRAMS

Throughout our nine years, the SMGA has seen first-hand how the game of golf not only helps facilitate the healing process but also has the power to build relationships that extend beyond the medical center, past the golf course, and back to active duty or into civilian life. Our programs are designed to support and empower post-9/11 veterans as they pursue the many possibilities and opportunities that lie ahead of them. The core of the SMGA program rests within our Warrior Golf Clinics and American Golfer Program.



Warrior Golf Clinics are targeted to wounded and injured veterans who wish to incorporate the game of golf into their recovery and rehabilitation programs. Offered in the spring and fall, each clinic series consists of seven consecutive weeks of two-hour golf instruction followed by a golf playing opportunity. Clinics are family inclusive, and include childcare and a catered lunch. Throughout the series, golfers receive an SMGA logo golf shirt, hat, and glove. Veteran golfers who are eligible and qualify by attending six of the eight weeks are equipped with custom-fitted golf clubs to help them further their game.

The American Golfer Program is open to eligible veterans who do not reside within close proximity to one of our nine chapter locations, but who still wish to turn to the game of golf as a form of rehabilitation and recovery. SMGA staff will assist eligible veterans in identifying local golf professionals and host facilities. Those veterans who complete the American Golfer Program are eligible for a custom-fitted set of clubs, as well as full SMGA membership.

**100%** of respondents agree that the game of golf and participation in SMGA clinics and activities helped improve their physical well-being.

**93%** say SMGA golf clinics helped improve mobility, range of motion, flexibility, and/or level of pain.

**92%** found participation in SMGA clinics and activities helped with PTS/PTSD.

**92%** found participation in SMGA clinics and activities improved family life or other relationships.

A man wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt, dark shorts, and a dark cap is captured in a golfing stance on a green field. He has a prosthetic left leg, which is blue and silver. He is holding a golf club and is about to hit a white golf ball. The background is a blurred green field.

# OUR IMPACT

The SMGA aims to meld a love of country and love of golf in an effort to support the mental and physical rehabilitation programs of post-9/11 wounded and injured veterans. SMGA golf professionals, skilled in teaching adaptive golf, understand the unique needs of veterans returning home from service and have witnessed first-hand the powerful benefits the game of golf can provide in improving the quality of life of wounded service men and women.

## **Physical and Mental Rehabilitation**

Golf embodies strength-flexibility-endurance-balance-and mental discipline, all central qualities of a successful rehabilitation program. The camaraderie and lasting friendships SMGA warrior golfers forge among themselves have helped many return to active duty or successfully reintegrate into civilian life.

## **Military Families Serve Too**

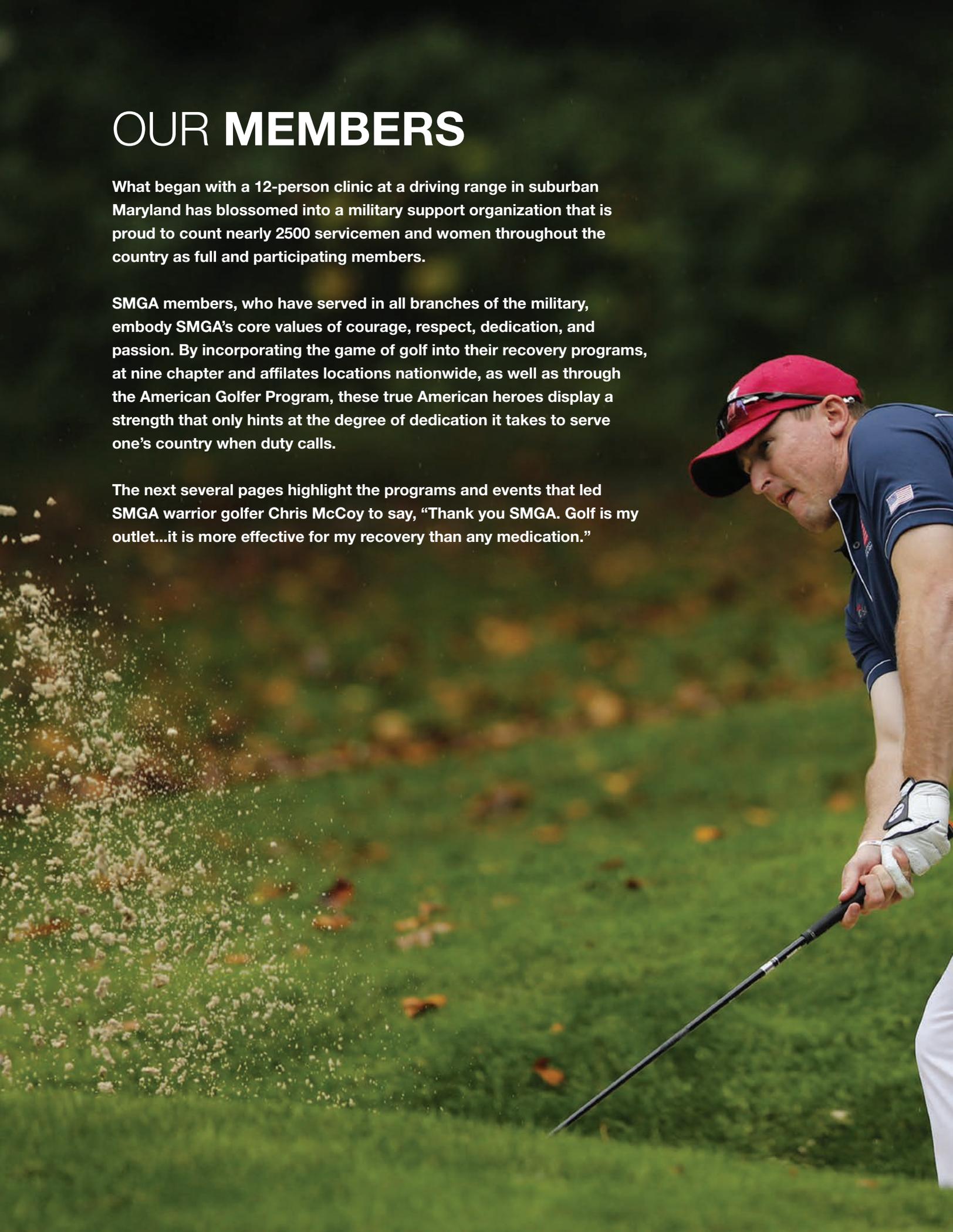
The SMGA recognizes that when our nation's men and women serve our country, their families do too. Since 2001, more than 2.5 million service members have been deployed. Long deployments can be stressful for those left to support the family and home. Because of this, the SMGA promotes a family-inclusive environment and encourages clinic participation from our veterans' families; family and caregivers can participate in our clinics at no cost.

# OUR MEMBERS

What began with a 12-person clinic at a driving range in suburban Maryland has blossomed into a military support organization that is proud to count nearly 2500 servicemen and women throughout the country as full and participating members.

SMGA members, who have served in all branches of the military, embody SMGA's core values of courage, respect, dedication, and passion. By incorporating the game of golf into their recovery programs, at nine chapter and affiliates locations nationwide, as well as through the American Golfer Program, these true American heroes display a strength that only hints at the degree of dedication it takes to serve one's country when duty calls.

The next several pages highlight the programs and events that led SMGA warrior golfer Chris McCoy to say, "Thank you SMGA. Golf is my outlet...it is more effective for my recovery than any medication."





**Command Sergeant Major Billy Paul**  
**United States Army (Retired)**  
**American Golfer Program**

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Command Sergeant Major Paul was injured by an improvised explosive device (IED) blast near Fallujah, Iraq. Golf has been a significant part of Command Sergeant Major Paul's recovery process, and he is an active member of the SMGA's American Golfer Program. In 2015, Bill competed in the Bush Warrior Open, the Simpson Cup, and the Golf Channel Amateur tour.



**Staff Sergeant Jack Schumacher**  
**United States Army (Retired)**  
**SMGA Maryland**

Staff Sergeant Jack Schumacher was born in Champaign, Illinois, and enlisted as an Infantryman in the United States Army in 2005. Golf became a powerful outlet for his rehabilitation while at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and he completed the SMGA Maryland program at Olney Golf Park with his wife, Jill. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star with Valor (x2) and the Purple Heart (x2). In 2015, Jack competed in the Bush Warrior Open.



**Sgt. Tim Lang**  
**United States Marine Corp (Retired)**  
**SMGA Maryland**

Sergeant Lang was the turret gunner on a Humvee patrolling in Fallujah, Iraq, in October 2006, when his vehicle was hit by a roadside IED. Lang was an athlete growing up and came from a highly competitive family of 12. "Golf itself pretty much finished what doctors were able to start," he said. "It made a world of difference mentally, emotionally, and physically. It became my satisfaction. I was able to feel like a human being again. It gave me the self confidence that I missed for so long." This year, Tim had the chance to get a "Fan's Eye View" at the Pebble Beach Pro Am.



**Staff Sergeant Mike Downing**  
**United States Army (Retired)**  
**SMGA Boston**

Army SSG Michael Downing was on his second deployment when he was injured by an IED explosion in Afghanistan. Like so many others, Mike found golf as a way to reintegrate back into society. Mike credits the camaraderie he found within SMGA Boston's clinics with aiding his recovery. "The military always looks out for one another." Mike says.

# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

## BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON TOURNAMENT SERIES

For the past six years, Booz Allen Hamilton, an international leader in management consulting, has supported the SMGA by hosting a series of golf tournaments around the country. This year's 2015 Wounded Veteran Tournament Series raised over \$140,000 for the SMGA.

# Booz | Allen | Hamilton

Augusta, GA

Bethesda, MD

Charleston, SC

Colorado Springs, CO

Dayton, OH

Fayetteville, NC

Honolulu, HI

Huntsville, AL

Lexington Park, MD

Los Angeles, CA

Norfolk, VA

San Antonio, TX

San Diego, CA

Troy, MI

**\$140K+** total raised in 2015

**100+** Booz Allen employee volunteers

# FEATURED EVENTS

Each year, hundreds of SMGA members are afforded the opportunity to participate in unique playing opportunities, tournaments, and golf experiences. These events offer our members not just the chance to connect with local communities, but are often once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

## **SMGA National Charity Golf Classic**

For the 9th consecutive year, the SMGA Charity Golf Classic raised over \$100,000 for SMGA's family inclusive programs and services. Held at Manor Country Club in Rockville, MD, the event continues to be a major source of revenue for our organization, as well as offering the local golf community the chance to interact with SMGA warrior golfers.



## **Hootie & the Blowfish's Monday after the Masters**

The SMGA was honored to have received invitations to send SMGA members to one of the country's premier Celebrity Pro-Ams. Thanks to Del Monte and Myrtle Beach Golf Holiday, SMGA members were treated to an all-expenses paid trip to play golf, meet, and hang out with some of the biggest celebrities in music and sports.

## **The Masters Tournament**

Del Monte treated SMGA members to an all-expenses paid trip to the Masters Tournament. Highlights from the trip included a personal walking tour of

Augusta National with seven-time Masters competitor Bobby Wadkins and two rounds of golf at Fort Gordon, the top-rated military golf course in the country.

## **Quicken Loans National Pro Am**

Thanks to longtime SMGA supporter and Board Member Bob Winegard, SMGA members participated in the Quicken Loans National Pro Am, powered by the Tiger Woods Foundation. This year, the event was held at Robert Trent Jones GC in Gainesville, VA, site of the 1994, 1996, 2000, and 2005 Presidents Cups.

## **George W. Bush Institute Warrior Open**

The George W. Bush Institute has recognized the SMGA as a featured military support organization since the inaugural Warrior Open in 2011. A premier event for post-9/11 wounded or injured veteran golfers, the Warrior Open has seen dozens of SMGA members compete, including several from various chapters and the American Golfer Program in 2015.





“If not for the SMGA, I would have continued to physically and mentally go downhill. The game of golf and the SMGA have not only been life changing, but life saving for me...I have never met any group more dedicated than the SMGA.”

**~Ray LaFlame, SMGA American Golfer.**

# AMERICAN GOLFER PROGRAM



American Golfer Jason Yette participated in the American Golfer Program at Chambers Bay, home of the 2015 U.S. Open.

**28** different states

**600** hours of instruction

**95** sets of custom-fitted golf clubs issued



# SMGA MARYLAND



Located at Argyle Country Club in Silver Spring, MD, SMGA Maryland is home to SMGA's national headquarters. SMGA Co-Founder and Director of Instruction Jim Estes runs the chapter's Warrior Golf Clinics. Members received thousands of hours of instruction, club fittings, and access to golf courses and practice facilities free of charge.

## **Warrior Golf Clinics**

A total of 28 clinics were provided to local veterans and their families. Transportation

to/from Olney Golf Park and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center was available through Disabled Sports USA.

## **Warrior Open Participation**

SMGA Maryland members Andrew Hillstrom, Jack Schumacher, and Steve Winingham competed in this year's Bush Center Warrior Open in Dallas, TX.

## **SMGA National Charity Golf Classic**

This year's 9th Annual Charity Golf Classic, held at Manor CC in Rockville, MD, raised over \$100,000 for SMGA programs and events.

## **2nd Annual Colonial Cup**

Each year, SMGA Maryland members compete in a Ryder Cup style event against George Washington University's Division I golf team. With an SMGA victory in 2015, the series record stands at 1-1. GWU team members also provided instruction tips at this year's Warrior Golf Clinics.

**28** total golf clinics  
**70** free golf tournaments  
**250+** free rounds of golf played

### **Simpson Cup Participation**

The Simpson Cup is an international golf team tournament between U.S. wounded/injured veterans and UK wounded/injured veterans. SMGA Maryland members on the USA team, included TJ Brooks, Steve Ogletree, Jonathan James, Chris Bowers, Dave Bagby, and Tim Lang.

### **Oakdale Emory Methodist Church Fundraiser**

For the 8th year, the Oakdale Emory Methodist Church held a breakfast fundraiser for the SMGA. More than \$5000 was raised to benefit SMGA programs and experiences.

### **Heritage Hunt Wounded Veteran Golf Outing**

For the second consecutive year, Heritage Hunt CC in Gainesville, VA, organized a golf outing to benefit the SMGA. This year, \$10,850 was raised, and more than 20 SMGA members played in the event.

### **RBC Wealth Management Partnership**

The SMGA received a \$10,000 contribution from RBC Wealth Management at a special event at the Metropolitan Club in Washington, DC.



**200** veterans & families served  
**57** custom-fitted golf sets issued

# SMGA BOSTON | RHODE ISLAND

SMGA Boston is our fastest growing chapter, expanding their clinic series to Rhode Island in 2015. Future plans include expansion throughout greater New England.



## **“Our Nations Golf Tournament” at Indian Pond CC**

Over 141 players participated in the event, including more than 70 veterans. Among the sponsored veterans were 35 SMGA Boston members. In total, over \$17,000 was raised for the SMGA.

## **Rhode Island Association of General Contractors & Laborers Union Fundraiser**

On August 3rd, the Rhode Island Association of General Contractors Trade Council sponsored an event for SMGA Boston at Pawtucket CC. Over \$13,000 was donated to the local chapter, including an SMGA truck wrap.

## **SMGA “Golf and Salute Those Who Served” Event at Ferncroft CC**

SMGA Boston teamed with the Home Base Program and Ferncroft CC to organize a fundraising tournament to benefit both organizations. 17 SMGA members played in the event, and more than \$1,000 was raised. Relationships were formed, and bigger plans are expected for 2016.

## **Deutsche Bank Championship at TPC Boston**

The Tiger Woods Foundation honored SMGA Boston for its dedication in sponsoring golf programs for wounded veterans at the Deutsche Bank Championship at TPC Boston. Tim Connors, USMC Silver Star recipient; SFC Joe Sullivan, SMGA Boston Co-Founder; and Jerry Shanahan, Operations Director of SMGA Boston participated in this prestigious event.

**\$45K**  
total raised  
in 2015

**32** total golf clinics  
**7** free golf tournaments and events  
**18** custom-fitted golf sets issued

# SMGA FORT BRAGG | CAMP LEJEUNE

SMGA in the Carolinas hosted three sets of clinics in 2015, and included programs at Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune. Golf clinics at Fort Bragg were held on base at the Ryder and Stryker golf courses, as well as at the state-of-the-art facility at Methodist University. The vast majority of the soldiers and Marines who attended received at least 16 hours of instruction.



## **New Clinic Location at Methodist University**

A new adaptive golf clinic series was held at Methodist University's golf course. Methodist University is a PGA Management program facility, and has a new state-of-the-art facility.

10 service members from Fort Bragg's Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) completed the 8-week program.

## **"The Brotherhood of Warriors" Challenge Cup**

SMGA Members competed in a Ryder Cup style golf event at Umstead Pines GC. Active and retired Army paired to battle it out against the Marines; the Army beat the Marines 8-4.

## **Warrior Open Participation**

SMGA Fort Bragg member and Silver Star recipient Jim Herring competed in this year's Warrior Open. By his side caddying was PGA Master Professional and Fort Bragg/Camp Lejeune SMGA clinic series manager Brad Clayton. Jim finished tied for 8th place, with a two day score of 161.

**28** total golf clinics

**35** custom-fitted golf sets issued

**50** veterans and families served

# SMGA FORT DRUM, NY

SMGA New York supports post-9/11 wounded veterans by providing rehabilitative golf programs and playing opportunities across Northern New York. In 2015, this chapter introduced a pilot winter program to provide access to indoor facilities during the winter months and offer individual golf fitness programs year-round. SMGA National will consider offering these similar programs nationwide in 2016.



## **The Masters Tournament**

SMGA New York member Josh Hill attended the 2015 Masters tournament with other SMGA members from across the country. Member Alec Williamson traveled to Myrtle Beach to attend the Hootie & the Blowfish “Monday after the Masters” celebrity pro-am.

## **Russell Wilson & Kasey Kahne’s “The DRIVE” Charity Event**

SMGA New York member Brandon Gilmore got a once-in-a-lifetime

opportunity to play in “The Drive” golf tournament in Seattle, WA. Brandon got up close and personal with Russell Wilson, Kasey Kahne, George Lopez, Jermaine Kearse, and many other professional athletes.

## **Offseason Golf Fitness Programs**

Eight warriors attended a pilot fitness program to encourage individual golf fitness. The Titleist TPI fitness program, Flexor training aids, and yoga exercises were used to target mobility, stability, balance, and strength. The SMGA hopes to expand similar programs to all chapter locations in 2016.

**\$32K**  
total raised  
in 2015

**70** free golf tournaments and events  
**9** custom-fitted golf sets issued  
**25** veterans and families served

# SMGA FORT EUSTIS

One of SMGA's first chapter locations, Fort Eustis had another exceptional year in 2015. Wounded and injured veterans from the WTU at Fort Eustis received dozens of hours of instruction from 2009 PGA Patriot Award winner Andy Weissinger and PGA professional Chip Olenick.

# SMGA HAWAII

With the support of PGA Professional Mo Radke and Mark Marble, a pilot chapter was started in Kaneohe Bay, HI, where an eight-week clinic series was held at the golf course on Marine Base Hawaii.

## Warrior Golf Clinics

10 veterans from the Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) at Schofield Barracks attended the eight-week clinic series at Kaneohe Bay. Instruction, transportation, and lunch were provided at no cost. 4 Veterans received a custom fitted set of golf clubs.

## Booz Allen Hamilton Series Tournament

All 10 SMGA Hawaii clinic participants were treated to free entry into the Booz Allen Hamilton SMGA charity golf event.



FORT EUSTIS

**16** total golf clinics

**6** custom-fitted golf sets issued

**50** veterans and families served



# SMGA NORTH TEXAS

In 2015, the North Texas Wounded Warrior Golf Association (NTWWGA) continued to serve as the North Texas chapter of the SMGA. The organizations' joint mission is to provide rehabilitative golf experiences to wounded veterans and their families.

## **AT&T Byron Nelson Pro-Am**

Courtesy of AT&T, 12 SMGA veterans played in the Byron Nelson Corporate Challenge.

## **5th Annual North Texas Wounded Warrior Charity Golf Tournament**

For the 5th straight year, the NTWWGA held their annual fundraising tournament at Timarron CC, home of their SMGA Warrior Golf Clinics. \$25,000 was raised and 16 NTWWGA/SMGA veterans played for free.

**27** free golf tournaments and events

**8** custom-fitted golf sets issued

**32** veterans and families served

# FINANCE NOTES

The SMGA continues to enjoy strong financial support for our rehabilitative program activities. An audit of our 2014 financials showed a very low overhead rate of 13%, meaning that 87% of funding directly benefits SMGA warrior golfers.

The SMGA recognizes the high costs associated with the game of golf. Because of increased membership, particularly through the American Golfer Program, the provision of golf equipment and apparel is our largest expense.

We have invested in full-time staff to develop best practices, better organize program offerings, and cultivate new revenue sources such as grants and applications for funding requests. Major sources of income continue to be golf tournament fundraisers, which raised a combined \$297,000. Our Annual Charity Golf Classic raised over \$100,000, and the Booz Allen Hamilton tournament series raised more than \$140,000 in 2015. Other sources of income include grants and corporate and personal direct donations.

We thank all of our loyal supporters, and we promise to devote as much funding as possible directly to our proven adaptive golf programs for veterans and their families.

**Additional financial information can be obtained by visiting our website at: [www.smga.org](http://www.smga.org)**

# FINANCE **NOTES**

**\$634,000** total raised in 2015  
| **\$297,000** raised by charity golf outings across the U.S. | **\$184,000** corporate or personal contributions  
| **\$153,000** total grants | **\$85,000** spent on golf instruction fees |  
**\$185,000** spent on equipment, including clubs, golf bags, and adaptive golf aids | **\$47,000** to equip each SMGA participant with a shirt, hat, and glove.

Your donation makes an impact. Join us in making a difference in a wounded veteran's recovery...and life.

**\$35** to outfit a single veteran | **\$80** provides a veteran with a private golf lesson | **\$300** for a set of adaptive golf grips | **\$850** to equip a veteran with a custom-fitted set of golf clubs | **\$1000** annual cost to pay for a veteran to play on an amateur golf tour | **\$7500** is the average cost to run an 8 week SMGA clinic series for 10 veterans | **\$21K** to purchase a paragolfer for immobilized golfers.

Join us in making a difference in a wounded veteran's recovery...and their life.  
Donate online at [www.smga.org/donate](http://www.smga.org/donate) or by phone at 301-500-7449



“Golf is a big part of my life and who I am now. It has helped me believe in myself, and I became a better man...[and] once you achieve something, as simple as hitting a ball high into the air, you feel you can do anything.”

~Ramon Padilla, Jr. U.S. Army (Ret.)





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#SMGA #WarriorGolf