

PGA OF AMERICA HALL OF FAME - Class of 2019

DAVIS LOVE III, PGA

Davis Love III was born into a golfing family in Charlotte, North Carolina, the son of legendary PGA Teaching Professional Davis Love Jr., and mother, Helen, an accomplished amateur golfer. By age 10, Davis knew that he wanted to be a professional golfer. He followed an impressive junior career to earn a scholarship to the University of North Carolina where he was a three-time All-American golfer and the 1984 Atlantic Coast Conference Champion.

In 1985, Love competed on the U.S. Walker Cup team before turning professional later that year. He won his first PGA TOUR event in 1987 at the MCI Heritage Golf Classic at Harbour Town Golf Links in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Love would go on to win this event five times during his career. His 21 PGA TOUR victories include the 1997 PGA Championship and a pair of win at THE PLAYERS Championship in 1992 and 2003. Just as Love was about to seal his PGA Championship victory with a birdie on the 18th hole at Winged Foot Golf Club, a rainbow appeared overhead. The setting and the emotional final moments connected Love's victory to his father, a member of the World Golf Teachers Hall of Fame who perished in a 1988 airplane accident. Love became one of nine PGA Champions whose father was a PGA of America member.

In 1994, Love launched Love Golf Design, a company with his brother, Mark. In 2010, he began hosting the RSM McGladrey Classic. He went on to win the final tournament of the 2008 season, the Children's Miracle Network Classic. That was win No. 20 for Love on the PGA Tour, and it was not his final triumph. He captured the 2015 Wyndham Championship. At age 51 years, 4 months, the third-oldest PGA Tour winner to that point.

Love competed on six U.S. Ryder Cup teams and six Presidents Cup teams. In 2012, he guided the U.S. Ryder Cup Team at Medinah Country Club outside Chicago and in 2016 was captain again as the Americans triumphed over Europe, 16-10, at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minnesota.

Davis Love III honored his father in 1997 with the publication of the book, "Every Shot I Take," chronicling his father's teachings on golf and life. It won the 1997 USGA International Book Award. Davis Love Jr. was a lead instructor with *Golf Digest's* golf schools in the 1970s and '80s, but it was the tutelage of his son, Davis III, that motivated him more than anything. He helped his son harness and utilize his powerful golf swing. "I never saw a father-son relationship that was as good as Davis Jr. and Davis III's," legendary PGA Teaching Professional Bob Toski told *Golf Digest* in 2008.

Love's popularity and the manner he represents the best of golf is reflected in his receiving the Payne Stewart Award (2008); the USGA's Bob Jones Award (2013) and the Jim Murray Award (2016), presented by the Golf Writers Association of America (GWAA) annually to a golfer who goes out of his way to cooperate with the media. Love also has served as a member of the Tour policy board four times. In 2017, Love was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame. Love and his wife, Robin, live in Sea Island, Georgia. They are parents of a son, Davis "Dru" IV; and a daughter, Alexia "Lexie," and have three granddaughters.

DAVE MARR II, PGA

David Francis “Dave” Marr II blended his signature achievement on the golf course with self-deprecating humor to become a pioneering golf television analyst and one of the most popular ambassadors of the sport. Marr’s victory in the 1965 PGA Championship catapulted him to prominence where his homespun wit forged a career that connected the casual golf viewer to the personalities of the game at the highest level.

Marr competed in an era dominated by four future World Golf Hall of Famers - Arnold Palmer, Billy Casper, Gary Player and the young Jack Nicklaus. Marr won only three PGA Tour events, but his PGA Championship victory, at age 31 at Laurel Valley Country Club in Ligonier, Pennsylvania – Palmer’s “backyard” – established his name with the public. Marr’s triumph – a two-stroke margin over Casper and Nicklaus – built his popularity among players and fans.

Marr had a natural gift for storytelling and self-deprecating humor. He made his transition to broadcasting when his playing career ended in the late 1960s. He joined ABC in 1972 and by 1975 was paired with legendary announcer Jim McKay, working full time as the main analyst. Marr remained with the network until 1991; and later returned to the broadcast booth, first with the BBC and then NBC.

As significant as his 1965 PGA Championship was, Marr has the distinction of having served as captain of what many regard the greatest United States Ryder Cup Team ever, in 1981. Marr guided a 12-player team that had all but one member (Bruce Lietzke) who held or would capture at least one major championship. The Americans cruised past Europe, 18½ to 9½, at Walton Heath Golf Club in Surrey, England. As a player, Marr competed in the 1965 Ryder Cup, posting a 4-2-0 record, and coupled with his PGA Championship, he was named the PGA of America Player of the Year. He is one of nine winners of the PGA Championship whose father was a PGA Member. His father, David Marr I, was a PGA Club Professional at a small nine-hole course outside Houston.

Born in Houston, Texas, Marr left college at age 19 and turned professional. He landed at Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, New York, where he served as a PGA Assistant Professional to Claude Harmon Sr., perhaps the greatest club professional/player of his generation. Harmon, who won the 1948 Masters, a member of World Golf Teachers Hall of Fame and a mentor/father figure to Marr.

Television viewers fortunate to have followed Dave Marr’s career recall his non-critical approach to covering an event. In a Golf Digest interview, Marr was asked what his legacy would read: “He wasn't as great as maybe he thought he was. He wasn't as bad as some of his detractors thought. He did help a few people. He tried to do right as best he could.”

Dave Marr II is survived by his wife, Tally, sons David and Tony; a daughter, Elizabeth Hallas, two stepsons, Wayne and Tucker Bunch, five grandsons and a granddaughter.

KARSTEN SOLHEIM

From the humble niche of his garage in Redwood City, California, engineer Karsten Solheim revolutionized golf club design and manufacturing, and ultimately made the game easier and more enjoyable for generations of players. Born in Bergen, Norway, moved to the United States at age 2 with his family. He grew up in Seattle, where his father was a shoemaker, but Solheim eventually decided to become an engineer. In 1953, he joined General Electric as a mechanical engineer and led the design of rabbit ears antenna that clamped onto General Electric's first portable television.

Solheim didn't begin playing golf until he was 42, when his co-workers at General Electric invited him to fill out a foursome. He immediately became an enthusiast. He began experimenting with club design and consistently looked for ways to enhance the game, and began to use his engineering skills to design clubs.

Solheim began tinkering in his garage with a blade putter by putting lead in the heel and toe to prevent the putter from twisting. Eventually, he built a putter with a hollowed out middle and attached the shaft to a torsion bar at the bottom of the club instead of the heel of the blade. The radical design transferred the weight to the perimeter of the club and the hollow center area created a distinctive "ping" when it struck the ball. Thus, a name for his company was born. While his contributions to golf equipment are legendary, Solheim also was a pioneer in generating interest and sponsorship dollars in women's professional golf. He was also the driving force behind the Solheim Cup, the biennial matches patterned after the Ryder Cup, which gave women's golf an international platform.

Solheim's creativity wasn't readily accepted, introducing his unconventional looking putters on the practice greens of professional tournaments. In 1966, he paved new ground in the industry with his invention of the Anser putter. Solheim sketched his "answer" to inconsistent putting on the sleeve of a 78-rpm record. His wife, Louise, suggested he remove the "w," so the name would fit on the club. Within a few years, Solheim's putters were being used by pro golfers all over the world and the Anser putter remains one of the most popular and copied designs to this day.

Solheim was transferred to Scottsdale, Arizona in 1961, and in 1967 his growing business found a home in Phoenix after overwhelming demand for the Anser allowed Solheim to resign his position at GE and incorporate Karsten Manufacturing. In 1969, Solheim applied the concept of perimeter weighting to irons. His new design and method of manufacturing took the golf world into a new dimension. The EYE2 was introduced in 1982, and Solheim captured about 40 percent of the market. His PING Eye2 model remains the best-selling iron. His PING Eye2 irons were the dominant irons on tour during the 1980's. PING celebrated its 60th anniversary this year, and the company is managed by Solheim's son, John, who took over in 1995, and is now Chairman and CEO. The family legacy extended with his grandson, John K. Solheim, serving as president.

Solheim was the recipient of the 1996 Ernie Sabayrac Award for outstanding contributions to the golf industry. Those contributions have continued well past his death. Solheim passed away Feb. 16, 2000, following complications from Parkinson's Disease. His wife, Louise, died in 2017. He is survived by three sons, John, Allan and Karsten Louis. A daughter, Sandra, passed away in 2013. Karsten and Louise had 14 grandchildren, 44 great grandchildren and 14 great, great grandchildren.

ANNIKA SÖRENSTAM, PGA/LPGA

One of the most decorated performers in women's golf history, Annika Sörenstam rewrote the LPGA and Ladies European Tour record books, changing the way women's golf was played, viewed and covered. Following her 15-year LPGA Tour career, she established the ANNIKA Foundation, a dynamic global golf footprint to inspire the next generation. The ANNIKA Foundation reflects Annika's signature drive for achievement by providing opportunities at the junior, collegiate and professional levels while teaching young people the importance of living a healthy, active lifestyle through fitness and nutrition. This year, the Foundation saw more than 600 girls from 60-plus countries compete in their seven global tournaments. Since 2007, the Foundation has produced 45 alumnae who have earned LPGA Tour cards and 600-plus women playing golf at the collegiate level. Born in Bro, Sweden, Annika was a nationally-ranked junior tennis player and standout skier before turning her attention to golf at age 16.

She attended the University of Arizona, where in 1991 she became the first freshman and foreign-born student to win the NCAA individual national championship. After earning All-American honors in 1991-92. She went on to attain unparalleled heights as a professional, winning 89 worldwide professional events, including 72 on the LPGA Tour with 10 major championships.

Annika's first victory on the LPGA Tour was the 1995 U.S. Women's Open. In 2001, she won eight Tour events, including the Standard Register PING Championship, where she became the first and only woman professional to record a 59 in competition. Her 11 victories in 2003 matched the single-season record of legend Mickey Wright; she also captivated the golf world that year when she competed in The Colonial, becoming the first female professional in a PGA TOUR event since Babe Zaharias in 1945. That same season, Annika's LPGA Championship and Women's British Open triumphs made her the sixth player to complete the LPGA career Grand Slam. She has been a competitive member of eight Solheim Cups and a non-playing captain in 2017.

At her peak, from 2001-05, Annika won 43 of 104 tournaments she played (a 41% total) and finished in the top three 67 times. In 2003, she was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame and stepped away from competitive golf in May 2008 to devote herself being a mother and building her ANNIKA-branded businesses, including the ANNIKA Collection of high-end women's apparel from Cutter & Buck and Golf Course design.

She remains the LPGA's all-time leading money winner, despite not playing the past 11 seasons. In April 2013, Annika was elected to membership in the Northern Florida PGA Section, further extending her influential mark upon the game of golf.

Annika and her husband, Mike McGee, live in Orlando, Florida. They are parents of a daughter, Ava, and a son, Will.

SHIRLEY SPORK, LPGA

One of the 13 original founders of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) in 1950, Shirley Spork took her pioneering talents beyond the course to establish standards of excellence for aspiring young women golfers. In the golf industry for nearly 70 years, Spork has been active in sustaining and promoting the future of the sport.

An Eastern Michigan University graduate, Spork was the 1947 Women's National Collegiate Golf Champion; the 1959 and 1984 LPGA National Teacher of the Year; and runner-up in the 1961 LPGA Championship (today's KPMG Women's PGA Championship). In 1951, she was the first woman invited into the Royal & Ancient clubhouse and boardroom in St. Andrews, Scotland, where she demonstrated wedge shots on top of the board's table. In 1955, Spork was the first LPGA Professional invited as guest speaker at the PGA Annual Meeting.

Spork's career is a study in creativity and diversifying herself in the workplace. She designed women's clubs for Golfcraft Inc.; and co-authored the National Golf Foundation Golf Teaching manuals and instructional videos. She's also served as Head Professional/Manager at numerous golf courses – Ukiah Valley Golf Club, a municipal course in Ukiah, California; Sugarbush Resort in Warren, Vermont; and at the former Tanforan Golf Club, a daily-fee facility in San Bruno, California. Additionally, Spork was highly respected for her ability to communicate golf skills and the dynamics of the golf swing. She put that skill to use as an LPGA Master Teaching Professional at three premier facilities in the California desert – Tamarisk Country Club of Rancho Mirage; and Indian Wells Country Club and Monterey Country Club – both in Palm Desert.

Spork's career is a study in shaping how today's game is taught. In 1959, she was the driving force behind the creation of the LPGA Teaching Committee, which was reorganized into today's LPGA Teaching & Club Professionals division, which currently boasts more than 1,750 current members in all 50 states and 25 countries worldwide. Those same members teach university coaches, instructors, and 80,000 young women in the LPGA/USGA Girls Golf program. Spork's ability to educate audiences at all levels of the game took root from 1966-73 when she served as Western Director of Education for the National Golf Foundation. From 1977 to 2002, she directed The School of Golf for Women at Singing Hills Country Club in El Cajon, California.

Among her honors include the 1994 Byron Nelson Award; the 1998 LPGA Ellen Griffin Rolex Award; membership in the inaugural class (2000) of the LPGA Teaching & Club Professionals Division; and the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame (2002). Her latest book, "From Green to Tee" (2017), chronicles a life that includes interactions with Babe Zaharias, Mickey Wright and Kathy Whitworth, along with teaching celebrities that included Harpo Marx, who developed a comedy routine with Spork for special golf outings. The book continues to contribute to the endowment she established to benefit junior golf and her alma mater, Eastern Michigan University.

Spork lives in Palm Desert, California.

DEREK SPRAGUE, PGA

Derek Sprague, who served as the PGA of America's 39th president from 2014-16, was instrumental in growing the game through player development and youth programs, highlighted by the creation of the PGA Jr. League and the Drive, Chip & Putt Championship. Sprague also co-chaired the highly-successful Ryder Cup Task Force, which created a blueprint for success in golf's most compelling event.

Sprague is the General Manager of TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, where he has served since December 2017. He previously was the Managing Director of Liberty National Golf Club in Jersey City, New Jersey (2016-17) where he oversaw the club's preparation for the 2017 Presidents Cup.

For 27 years, Sprague was the General Manager and Director of Golf at Malone (New York) Golf Club, his hometown course, where he was involved with all aspects of the facility's operations.

Since 1998, Sprague has held leadership roles at both the national and Section levels. He was a member of the PGA Board of Directors from 2007-10, as well as many key PGA Committees. Sprague began service on the Northeastern New York PGA Board of Directors in 1998, and served as Section President from 2003-2004.

He turned professional in 1989, beginning his career at Malone Golf Club. Sprague was elected to PGA Membership in 1993. In October 2017, Sprague was inducted into the Northeastern New York PGA Hall of Fame. He was named the Northeastern New York PGA Golf Professional of the Year in both 2005 and 2008. He is also a four-time (2000-03) Section Bill Strausbaugh Award winner; two-time Section Merchandiser of the Year for Public Facilities (1998-99); and the 2006 Section President's Plaque award recipient.

Born in Malone, Sprague followed the lead of his late father in devoting himself to his community by serving as a member of the Board of Education of the Malone Central School District from 2003-2013.

Sprague is a 1988 graduate of James Madison University, in Harrisonburg, Virginia, where he competed on the golf team and earned a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Marketing. In 2014, Sprague became the fourth inductee into the School of Hospitality, Sport and Recreation Management Hall of Fame at James Madison University.

Derek and his wife, Jennifer are the parents of a daughter, Alexandra, and a son, Davis.

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