



# Illinois PGA Foundation News

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## **FOUR MEMBERS TO BE INDUCTED INTO ILLINOIS GOLF HALL OF FAME**

GLENVIEW, Ill. – Industry leaders Frank Jemsek of Burr Ridge, Ill., and Steve Lesnik of Winnetka, Ill., head the four-member 2009 class of inductees that also features long-time golf course superintendent Carl Hoppfan of Elmwood Park, Ill., and former PGA Tour member Chip Beck of Lake Forest, Ill., all of whom will be enshrined in the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame.

The inductees will be honored at a ceremony celebrating their achievements in October at the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame exhibit located at the Glen Club in Glenview, Ill.

To some, **Charles Henry "Chip" Beck** is best known for shooting a 59 in a PGA Tour event – a feat he accomplished in the third round of the 1991 Las Vegas Invitational. It was only the second time a 59 had ever been recorded in PGA Tour history. Mr. Beck would go on to enjoy four victories on the PGA Tour – two of which came in 1988 at the Los Angeles Open and USF&G Classic. He was runner-up in the 1986 and 1989 U.S. Open Championships and at the 1993 Masters. Mr. Beck also competed on three U.S. Ryder Cup teams and most recently, became a member on the Champions Tour. In 2003, Mr. Beck added his name to the record books once again. During the second round of the Nationwide Tour's Omaha Classic, he shot the first hole in one on a par-4.

Born in Fayetteville, N.C., Mr. Beck attended the University of Georgia in Athens, Ga where he was a three-time All-American on the University of Georgia's golf team.

Upon leaving the PGA Tour to sell insurance, Mr. Beck has donated his time and financial support to numerous golf organizations in Illinois. He currently serves as a director of the Western Golf Association and has been a generous donor to the WGA's Chick Evans Scholarship Fund.

After more than 43 years of work as a golf course superintendent, **Carl G. Hoppfan** continues to give back to the game that he loves so much. Even in retirement, Mr. Hoppfan can still be seen at an office at the Midwest Golf House soliciting donations for the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation. On other days he can be seen mowing the lawn and the greens on the three-hole Sunshine Course.

Mr. Hoppfan's career began in 1953 when he took a job in his home town at Aurora (Ill.) Country Club. Three years later, he would become the private club's superintendent. After 31 years at Aurora, Mr. Hoppfan took over as the superintendent at another Chicago area private club – Evanston Golf Club in Skokie, Ill.

Mr. Hoppman would remain at Evanston for 12 years before retiring and entering the next chapter of his life when the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation asked him to become their director for development and oversee the building and development of the Short Course at Midwest Golf House, a research facility with playing capacity.

His dedication to fundraising to support the Short Course and the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation has led to donations of over \$100,000 on an annual basis. His tireless efforts will benefit research and all aspects of golf.

To say golf has been in the blood of **Frank H. Jemsek** would be an understatement. Son of the late Chicago area golf patriarch and charter Illinois Golf Hall of Fame member Joe Jemsek, Mr. Jemsek continues to follow in his father's footsteps with his tireless efforts to provide the public golfer with first class amenities and a memorable golf experience.

Mr. Jemsek began working in the family business at age 11 and now currently serves as owner of the family corporation, operating four courses at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club in Lemont, Ill., including Dubsdread, home of the BMW Championship. Jemsek Golf operations also include Pine Meadow Golf Course in Mundelein, Ill. and St. Andrews Golf & Country Club in West Chicago, Ill.

Jemsek courses employs over 26 PGA and LPGA teaching professionals and each course has an award-winning learning center and practice area. Innovations that Mr. Jemsek has implemented include the "No Embarrassment Golf School," a series of six golf clinics from April through August, day and evening, each with five PGA instructed lessons for adults. The series is slanted particularly toward the beginner.

Mr. Jemsek gave the Western Golf Association the use of Cog Hill rent free since 1991 for the Western Open Championship, adding \$150,000 per year directly into the Evans Scholars Foundation.

In 2004, the Illinois PGA presented Mr. Jemsek with an honorary membership for his generosity and support above and beyond the normal type.

When **Steven H. Lesnik** originated the idea for KemperSports in 1978 while working for insurance giant Kemper Corporation to operate and manage the newly opened Kemper Lakes Golf Course in Kildeer, Ill., he couldn't have imagined that 31 years later it would evolve into one the largest golf development and management corporations in the United States.

Mr. Lesnik and Mr. James Kemper, Jr., bought KemperSports from the Kemper Corporation in 1983 following Mr. Kemper's retirement from the insurance business. Under Mr. Lesnik's leadership as chairman, the company has grown to include more than 80 golf courses, of which, 14 facilities are located in Illinois.

Mr. Lesnik was an instrumental figure in securing the 1989 PGA Championship at Kemper Lakes Golf Course at a time when only a handful of public golf facilities were selected to host a Major Championship. Numerous other Championships were hosted at KemperSports facilities including the Grand Slam of Golf, Illinois PGA Championship, Illinois Open Championship, LaSalle Bank Open Championship, Chicago City Amateur Championship and several USGA events and qualifiers. His ability to provide public golfers with a private county club experience helped him coin the phrase "country club for a day".

A graduate of Brown University in Providence, R.I., Mr. Lesnik is committed to educational advancement. In 2000, he was confirmed by the Illinois Senate as a member of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Mr. Lesnik has dedicated much of life to the education of youth in Illinois and America. He served as a National Trustee for the Boys and Girls Club of America and has been an accredited member of the Public Relations Society of America since 1973.

In 2001, Mr. Lesnik was awarded an honorary membership by the Illinois PGA for his long-time commitment and support. He was named the 2003 Illinois Board of Education’s Member of the Year and in 2005, was named to the Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame. He has been ranked by *Golf Magazine* among the “Most Powerful People in Golf”.

**About the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame:**

The Illinois Golf Hall of Fame is located at The Glen Club, in Glenview, Ill. Plaques, trophies, photographs, and other related memorabilia make up a first-class tribute to those individuals who have made significant contributions to the game both in Illinois and throughout the world.

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