

## Tom Mirus

### Friend of the USBGA

Inducted 2018

The United States Blind Golf Association has been very fortunate to receive help from several great organizations as well as special individuals. One such person is Tom Mirus, who in 1996 approached the USBGA at the Lake Buena Vista golf course in Orlando, Florida and offered his help as a PGA golf professional. Well, the USBGA put him to work right away by giving him all the responsibilities involving golf at the first Blind Golf World Championship, hosted by the USBGA in Florida. The event went off flawlessly and included vision impaired golfers from the USA for the first time.

Tom has been handling the organization's golf activities ever since. He works with the local tournament club pros to set up the golf courses to be blind golf friendly; arranges player pairings and tee times; handles all the scoring duties; briefs the score keepers on their responsibilities; reviews local course rules for the members and has even been known to present the trophies! The "Sheriff", which some members call Tom, is the organization's Senior Rules Official.

Tom not only volunteers his time and effort at every National Championship but also officiates at the annual Guiding Eyes Classic, held in Mt. Kisco, New York. In addition, he has helped at many regional tournaments and has even competed occasionally in those events as a B-3 vision impaired golfer.

For years Tom wrote an article for *The Midnight Golfer* publication on rule tips and interpretation. The amateur golf tour in central Florida which he owns and manages has held many fund raising events which financially benefited the organization.

Once a year Tom can be found at the PGA Golf Show where he spends time visiting with the golf industry professionals, promoting the blind golf story. Other volunteer duties include serving on the HOF committee and advising the USBGA Board.

Tom is highly respected by his peers since he is the only known vision impaired / legally blind golfer to earn a PGA card. Born with cataracts in both of his eyes, yet in his prime posted a 4 handicap. Since receiving a scholarship to play golf at Murray State University in Kentucky, Tom went on to compete in NCAA sanctioned tournaments, served as golf professional at numerous prestigious clubs, and now runs a successful amateur tour.

The USBGA has benefitted greatly in the past 20 years from its association with a “Life Member“ of the PGA. No doubt Tom is a special volunteer who brings a professional touch to the organization and exemplifies the designation “Friend of the USBGA and Blind Golf”.

The United States Blind Golf Association is proud to recognize and induct Tom Mirus into its 2018 class of the Hall of Fame.