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Save Sharp Park Golf Course advocates receive Presidents Award

SAN FRANCISCO -- The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California (GCSANC) will recognize Mr. Richard H. Harris and Mr. Robert D. "Bo" Links for their exceptional contributions to the game of golf, evidenced through their grassroots efforts to help save [Sharp Park Golf Course](#), a much-loved seaside municipal facility in Pacifica, CA, designed by legendary architect Alister MacKenzie. The prestigious GCSANC Presidents Award will be presented at the association's annual meeting and awards ceremony on Monday January 9, at The Course at Wente Vineyards (Livermore, CA). More than 100 golf course superintendents and allied golf industry leaders are anticipated to attend the ceremony.

"We are very pleased to recognize these fine gentlemen," stated GCSANC President & Host Superintendent Glenn Matthews. "They have worked tirelessly in support of public golf as they fully demonstrate the kind of effort it takes to preserve public golf especially in challenging economic and political times."

Both men have deep roots in Northern California golf. Harris is a member at Gleneagles GC, Sharp Park GC and Stanford GC. He was introduced to the game at a young age by his father in Redwood City, CA, and later played Varsity Golf at Stanford where he was captain of the golf team in 1968. After graduation, Harris served in the U.S. Army, 82nd Airborne Division and 25th Infantry Division, South Vietnam (1969-1971). He graduated from Boalt Hall School of Law at UC Berkeley in 1977, and has been practicing law in San Francisco ever since. He is with the firm of Erskine and Tulley, where his legal practice has focus in the areas of business, insurance, and real estate litigation.

Harris was instrumental in the "Save Stanford Golf Course" campaign in 2000. He is co-founder of the San Francisco Public Golf Alliance (SFPGA), an organization committed to preserving affordable eco-friendly golf, with focus on San Francisco's historic Sharp Park and Lincoln Park courses.

According to Harris, the alliance is dedicated to educating and galvanizing public support for the benefits of municipal golf. "These are challenging times, and golf is not the only public resource that is threatened," said Harris. The fight to preserve Sharp Park and our other historic courses is an ongoing one, and golfers and the golf industry must continue to be vigorously engaged within the public arena, to help preserve golf's role as a valued place where the broad public can meet, recreate and relax, and enjoy nature together."

Co-honoree, Robert D. "Bo" Links is a lifelong resident of the City & County of San Francisco. He is a graduate of UC Berkeley and UCLA Law School. He has practiced law in San Francisco since 1974, and is currently with Slote & Links where he maintains an active general litigation and legal counseling practice.

Links is an avid golfer and a dedicated golf historian. He has written two golf books, Follow the Wind and Riverbank Tweed & Roadmap, and Jenkins: Tales From the Caddie Yard. He has served on the USGA Green Section Committee for nearly two decades and is a pro bono speaker for the association on legal issues affecting the game of golf. He serves as the volunteer historian for the City's golf courses, and was active in the project to renovate and restore Harding Park GC.

A past president of Lake Merced Golf Club (2003-04), Links was successful in leading the effort to rebuild the club's infrastructure (new clubhouse, recycled water facilities, maintenance building). In 2007 and 2008, Links was honored by the Alister MacKenzie Society, which awarded him first prize in the international Lido Design Contest. He is the only two-time winner of that award.

Links's greatest golf endeavor is his leadership role in co-founding the SFPGA, and always with immense energy and focus on saving Sharp Park, which has been under attack by anti-golf activists. Links and Harris continue to help secure funding for an environmentally-sensitive restoration of the cherished MacKenzie-designed course. Both gentlemen

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