



Honoring Byron Nelson

Byron Nelson etched out a career in professional golf unlike any gentleman who played the game before, or any who has played since. While his awe-inspiring accomplishments in the game of golf are widely revered, it is Mr. Nelson's personal qualities such as kindness and dedication that have won the respect and admiration of his peers, present-day players and fans of all ages.



Byron and Peggy Nelson take part in Championship festivities every year.

The EDS Byron Nelson Championship remains the only PGA TOUR event named in honor of a professional golfer. The decision in 1968 by Salesmanship Club of Dallas officials to name the tournament for Byron Nelson has resulted in a happy union for both parties for 38 years. Mr. Nelson's annual participation in the event is a large reason that the Championship's charitable donations to Salesmanship Club Youth and Family Centers, Inc. have exceeded \$82 million since its inception.

Byron Nelson's ties to the North Texas area date back to his birth on February 4, 1912, on a cotton farm in Ellis County, near Waxahachie, Texas. Growing up in Fort Worth, Mr. Nelson played in the Dallas and Fort Worth areas. Currently, he and his wife, Peggy, reside on Fairway Ranch in Roanoke, Texas, his home since 1946.

Since his retirement from professional golf, Mr. Nelson has strived to touch lives in many different ways. He has shared his profound knowledge of the game as both a teacher and analyst with his pupils, including six-time PGA TOUR Player of the Year, Tom Watson, and 1964 PGA TOUR Player of the Year and 2000 United States President's Cup team captain, Ken Venturi.

In 1983, the City of Dallas honored Mr. Nelson for his work on behalf of the Championship and its charity cause. The Dallas All-Sports Association (DASA) awarded him the first-ever Lamar Hunt Award in 2000, a national honor that is awarded based on longevity and achievement in sports, combined with integrity, character and service to the community. The DASA also saluted Mr. Nelson with its Distinguished Service Award in 1985.

Additionally, Mr. Nelson has assisted in the development of the site of the EDS Byron Nelson Championship into a world-class golf facility. Working with architect Jay Morrish on the original construction of the Tournament Players Course at the Four Seasons Resort and Club Las Colinas, Byron continues to be consulted by Morrish as renovations and improvements continue.

In 1996, Mr. Nelson helped introduce the Byron Nelson Golf School at the Four Seasons Resort and Club Las Colinas by hitting the first ball off the lesson tee. In 1992, he was honored on his 80th birthday by the Four Seasons with the dedication of a 9'6" bronze likeness. The sculpture is now the focal point of Byron's Circle, an area adjacent to the No. 1 tee box of the TPC, putting green and pro shop.

Due to the incredible amount of respect that present-day PGA TOUR players have for the PGA Hall of Famer, the EDS Byron Nelson Championship traditionally boasts one of the strongest and most star-studded player fields of any tournament on the PGA TOUR. Mr. Nelson works tirelessly to keep it that way.

In addition to winning tournaments and setting records, Mr. Nelson also has been recognized for the honor and sportsmanship that he has brought to the game. In 1974, he received the Richardson Award, given annually by the Golf Writers Association of America to an individual who has consistently made outstanding contributions to golf. That same year, he was the recipient of the Bob Jones Award, presented annually for distinguished sportsmanship in golf.

The Memorial Tournament in Muirfield Village, Ohio, honored Mr. Nelson in 1980. Each year, the theme of the Memorial Tournament is centered around a professional golfer who has played the game with conspicuous honor. Mr. Nelson followed Robert T. Jones, Walter Hagen, Francis Ouimet and Gene Sarazen as honorees.

Byron Nelson won 54 PGA-sanctioned tournaments during his relatively brief professional career, including a record 11 straight victories from March 8 through August 5, 1945. His 54 wins place him in fifth on the all-time winners list.