## Ken Campbell

NEW ENGLAND
PROFESSIONAL GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
HALL OF FAME
2006

Ken Campbell enjoyed a long and illustrious golf career beginning in 1952 and spanning over fifty years before his retirement from the position of director of golf at Ponkapoag Golf Club in Canton, Massachusetts. He excelled at the game of golf at an early age and as a junior led his North Quincy High School teams to consecutive Massachusetts Interscholastic Championships. That was the only time a school had won back-to-back titles in the state's oldest interschool competition. He also won both of New England's largest junior tournaments, the 1,000 Entry New England Junior Open and the C.Y.O. Championship. At the age of eighteen, Campbell led the prestigious Massachusetts Open Championship, the youngest player to do so. While serving in the U. S. Army, he won service championships and was named to the All-Army Team.

Campbell's playing achievements include qualifying for the PGA Championship and qualifying for three PGA Senior Open events. He won the New England Senior Open in 1983 and won two NEPGA Senior Chapter Championships. Campbell was a perennial runner up or near the top finisher in numerous open and NEPGA events and he set at least nine course records during his playing career. For many years Campbell's dog, Heather, traveled with him to tournaments. Heather was well-trained, well-behaved and well-liked by everyone and she became something of a mascot at NEPGA events. Once a picture of Ken and Heather appeared in the newspaper showing Ken putting, while Heather held her eyes tightly shut. This amused Ken's many friends who didn't let him forget Heather's lack of confidence in his putting skills.

Working with junior golfers was Campbell's passion early on in his career. While at Furnace Brook Golf Club in Wollaston, Massachusetts, he started the New England Juniors Tournament, which became so successful it outgrew the course and moved to Ponkapoag Golf Club. He also organized the M.D.C. Open, which later became the Mass. Publinx. He hosted and ran the New England Section PGA Junior Golf Camp for boys for ten years while serving as director of golf at Newton Commonwealth Country Club in Newton, Massachusetts. The hugely popular camp, only the second of its kind in the country, included a full week of junior clinics and course play, with the youngsters staying overnight for the week. He also initiated a junior day camp for boys and girls in concert with the Newton Recreation Department. From what began as a field day for the South Shore Junior Golf League, Campbell developed the NEPGA Pro-Junior Championship, which is still going strong today. He believed in helping young people and became surrogate dad to numerous youngsters through the years who, like his own two sons and future son-in-law, went on to become golf professionals.

Campbell was committed to the use of continuing education as the primary catalyst to help fellow professionals succeed in their careers. In 1976, he was honored by the NEPGA as its Horton Smith Award recipient in recognition of his promotional and organizational efforts on behalf of the Section's Education Program. Campbell chaired the Junior Golf Committee for many years and served on the Membership Committee and the Rules Committee. He was elected as vice president on the NEPGA Executive Committee, serving from 1978 to 1981. In 1984, Campbell shared his idea of forming a Seniors' Association within the NEPGA with his friend and fellow senior member, Ray Lajoie. Together they developed what was probably the

first senior program if its kind. The Seniors' Association provided a venue for NEPGA members age fifty and over to enjoy competitive golf and camaraderie with their peers. Eventually the group attained representation as a chapter on the NEPGA Executive Committee. The consummate PGA professional, Ken Campbell was rewarded for his numerous talents and contributions in 1983 by being named the New England Section PGA Golf Professional of the Year.

Although Campbell's golf career has ended, his moral character, work ethic, dedication to family and to the great game of golf, along with his reputation as a top-notch PGA club professional continue to inspire fellow PGA members and all who know him.