

*Lewis H. Blakey, Ph.D.*

Lew Blakey has often quoted his dad as saying that there were two things in life that cannot be taken away, character and education, and his dad recommended getting plenty of both. Lew has added two more important items to strive for: working hard for success and working even harder to make others successful.

Lew began playing golf at the age of 14 under PGA Professional Johnny Schoonmaker at Alamance Country Club in Burlington, North Carolina. After playing junior golf events in the Carolinas and playing in high school, he put the clubs away as a difficult college curriculum lay ahead. Lew received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1954, a Master of Science in Engineering degree from George Washington University in 1962, and a Ph.D. in Engineering and Mathematics, from Catholic University in 1971. He also received a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Chicago in 1974.

Following graduation from Notre Dame and a short tour as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lew enjoyed a distinguished 33-year career as an engineer for the U.S. Government for which he received the Department of Defense Exceptional Civilian Service Award in 1989. This award is given by the Secretary of Defense to career employees for distinguished service and exceptional accomplishments. He had previously received a Senior Executive Service Presidential rank award presented by President Ronald Reagan in 1982.

After leaving federal service in 1989, Lew became very active in the game of golf, both as an administrator and as a player. He was elected to the USGA's Executive Committee in 2001 and served there until retiring in 2007. Lew is widely recognized as an international expert on the Rules of Golf and has served on the USGA Rules of Golf Committee continuously since 2000 and the Joint USGA-R&A Rules of Golf Committee since 2001. During his time on these Committees, the Rules of Golf were rewritten into a more modern form and many important issues were resolved including the problem of correcting an official's error and the long-standing conflicts between the definitions of lost ball, substituted ball, and wrong ball. Lew has worked as a Rules Official at many national championships including the U.S. Women's Open and the U.S. Senior Open and, most notable, all four major men's professional championships, the Masters, U.S. Open, British Open, and PGA Championship. He continues to serve as an instructor at national PGA/USGA Rules of Golf Workshops, the MAPGA/VSGA Rules Workshops, and is the sole presenter at an annual MAGA/MSGA/WMGA Rules Seminar.

During 2003-2006, Lew served as the chairman of the USGA Amateur Status Committee that produced the first major rewrite and modernization of the Rules of Amateur Status in decades, including resolution of nearly all outstanding issues between the USGA and R&A. He also served successively as the Chair of the USGA Junior Amateur Championship and the USGA Senior Amateur Championship Committees. In addition to the USGA Executive Committee, Lew has served on several other golf association governing bodies, including his current service on the Board of Directors of the Bobby Bowers Junior Golf Foundation and the Board of Governors of the Society of Seniors. Additionally, after ten years of service on the Executive

Committee of the Middle Atlantic Golf Association, Lew began his term as the Association's President earlier this year.

In 1991, Lew won the Northern Virginia Senior Amateur Championship and the Delaware State Senior Amateur Championship. He also won the Washington Metropolitan Golf Association Senior Amateur Championship in 1992 and 1998 and has won six senior club championships at three different clubs.

Lew has three children, Lewis Jr., Beverli, and Lynn. He and his wife, Claire, have been married for seventeen years. Claire has stalwartly supported his volunteer work in golf, particularly assisting him for many years with his rules presentations all across the country.