

# Honorary Member Gratitude

---

## SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC GOLF ALLIANCE



235 Montgomery St., #400, San Francisco, CA. 94104 • 415-290-5718 • info@sfpublicgolf.com

January 11, 2013

Mr. Rodney Muller, President  
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America  
Northern California Chapter  
Empire Ranch Golf Club  
1620 E. Natoma St.  
Folsom, CA. 95630

### **Re: Thanks to GCSAA, Northern California Chapter**

Dear President Muller,

This is to thank you and the Northern California Chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America for the great honor you do me and my compadre Bo Links, in naming us Honorary Members of the GCSAANC.

When I was a young university golfer at Stanford in the mid-1960s, I was on the golf course hitting balls on a warm Spring evening as the sun was setting into a fog bank rolling over the Coast Range to the west, and the thought came to me clearly: "This is what Heaven looks like." That epiphany has never left me: I regard a beautiful golf course as sacred ground. And I regard Greens Superintendents as keepers of sacred grounds.

So you and the GCSAANC do me more honor than maybe you know to invite me into your fraternity. Until now, I have thought that becoming a Super would have to wait until some future incarnation - the reward of a life particularly well-lived. But with this Honorary Membership, there's no waiting. So I gladly accept the

honor, which I consider to be an instance of True Grace.

I know that you have honored me and Bo in recognition of our ongoing work to save the Sharp Park Golf Course. We have worked hard, but it is a team effort of the several thousand members of the San Francisco Public Golf Alliance. The Superintendents have been part of the team, with your donations of money, connections, and psychic energy to the cause. Also important to the effort is Sharp Park's own Superintendent, Wayne Kappelman, a GCSAANC member who does extraordinary work, in very challenging circumstances, to keep golf playable at Sharp Park. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge Wayne in this letter.

The effort to save public golf at Alister MacKenzie's Sharp Park is far from over. There are many years and many political, bureaucratic, legal, and financial obstacles between us and our goal. But the effort is worthy, and together we will succeed. Thanks for your help and encouragement.

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the January 14 annual meeting of the GCSAANC. So I have asked Stanford Superintendent Ken Williams to accept the award on my behalf. Thanks for your understanding.

Far and Sure.

**Richard Harris**

cc: Robert "Bo" Links  
Emmy Moore-Minister  
Ken Williams  
Wayne Kappelman