

## Birdies For the Brave By DAVE DAVIES. CGCS, TPC Stonebrae

On June 28, TPC Stonebrae hosted its 5th annual Birdies for the Brave event. Birdies for the Brave is a PGA Tour Charity originally established by Phil Mickelson to provide aid and support to a variety of Military Support Foundations [www.birdiesforthebrave.org](http://www.birdiesforthebrave.org). Through a wide variety of outlets, this program supports scholarships and education funding for dependants, post military training for wounded veterans and reading programs that allow deployed personnel to connect with their children through videotaped book reading. Foundation representatives are invited to share details of their programs at stations on the course while paid attendees participate in a golf event that pairs them with invited military guests. In addition to all the golfers there is always a group of uniformed military personnel on hand to "press the flesh" and accept a steady stream of thank you's from everyone in attendance. This year 112 paid players joined forces with 35 military guests and 15 uniformed volunteers from Camp Park in Dublin and the 23rd Marines from San Bruno. The Wounded Warrior Foundation sent 3 three young men who played and we were proud to welcome back two previous participants, Matt Sheedy and Silver Star recipient Sgt. Vic Thibeault. Vic spoke about the Combat Wounded Amputee Network and their programs that promote hiking and climbing expeditions for injured vets. To see Vic and hear him speak is to truly understand the word determination. For more information on Vic's work, check out [parrfoundation.org](http://parrfoundation.org) or [www.GoFundMe.com/combatwoundedamputee](http://www.GoFundMe.com/combatwoundedamputee).

This event has a close personal attachment to me and has become a year round activity in securing sponsorships and donations from anyone I can. I'm proud to say that the Bay Area golf community again showed their great character by having virtually every course I reached out to donate in some way. It continues to prove to me that golf is more than just a game. Pat yourselves on the back for all the things you do to facilitate this and the hundreds of other causes that host fundraisers at our courses. Sometimes in the heat of the summer it may be hard to have a bigger picture perspective. I can assure you when you watch a group of uniformed soldiers gathering to share experiences or a Marine Color Guard present the colors or a young man with one leg out hitting a golf ball it might just put the heat and turf quality into perspective...I know it does for me.







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