

Old Tom Morris Award to President Ford

Former President of the United States Gerald R. Ford will receive the Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). Ford is the 1985 recipient of this significant international award that is identified throughout the golfing world with the true heritage and traditional founding of the game.



"The award is presented to an individual who, through a continuing, selfless commitment to the game of golf, has helped to further the welfare of the game with the same dedication and zeal demonstrated by Old Tom Morris," said James W. Timmerman, CGCS, President of GCSAA.

Ford brought international attention to this popular leisure time activity while serving as President of the United States. His golf outings have been portrayed both positively and frequently by the press. Ford is renowned as a man of integrity, and his association with the game of golf only results in further enhancing golf's attributes of honor and sportsmanship in the eyes of the world.

During his term in the White House, he clearly expressed his love for golf and his respect for the golf course superintendent. In a 1976 letter to GCSAA, President Ford explained, "Countless numbers of Americans derive pleasure, relaxation and exercise on our nation's golf courses. Evidence of the sport's growing popularity is seen from the increasing numbers who play it, from the rising sales of golf equipment, and from the media attention given to its major events. Holding a fascination for players of all levels and every social background, golf has become an important part of our national life.

"Much of the credit for this goes to you whose dedication and concern for perfection have made our courses into beautiful and reliable playing areas. The imagination and energy you bring to your tasks assure our nation's golf enthusiasts of the world's finest courses."

Since leaving office, Ford has continued to bring international attention to golf through his participation in charitable golfing events, as well as sponsoring his own charitable golf tournament, the Jerry Ford Invitational Golf Tournament.

"President Ford was selected for this award because he exemplifies some of the same characteristics that Old Tom demonstrated throughout his life. Ford's love for the game of golf is known around the world. Mr. Ford, like Old Tom, is a gentleman first, a gentleman last," said President Timmerman.

Old Tom Morris, one of golf's first greats, was a greenkeeper, golf professional, club and ball maker, golf course architect and accomplished player who won four British Open Championships between 1861 and 1867. At the Royal and Ancient, St. Andrews, Scotland, Old Tom acquired worldwide fame, boosting the popularity of golf throughout the British Isles and in many other parts of the world.

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