

Andrew's Bridge



September 11, 2001 started out like any other early fall day. Greens had been mowed, cups were changed and a beautiful day had begun. I keep a small TV on in the shop to watch the weather and to check up on the Cubs score. What I saw on the news that morning will be forever etched in my mind. Reports came on that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center. I turned just in time to see a second plane do the same. The shock was immense. Like many people, I could not look away from the scene. I let some members know of the news. Many would not believe me. They would soon find out the story was true. As it turned out, so many people's lives would be changed forever.

Andrew Marshall King was killed on 9/11/01. He was an executive with Cantor Fitzgerald with an office on the 104th floor of the North Tower of the WTC. He was not only a good father and good friend, but he was also a good golfer. Andrew played all over the world. He always loved to come back and play his "boyhood" course, the Geneva Golf Club. The last time I saw Andrew, he was chasing down a ball in the creek area on the first hole. He had the biggest smile on his face as he yelled out, "Hey Eddie!" I miss that smile.

As a tribute, Andrew's dad Wes King and brother Spencer King decided to build a bridge on the course in Andrew's honor. Wes, an accomplished architect, came up with a design similar to the old Swilkin

Bridge at St. Andrews in Scotland. The grounds and greens committee met with Wes and Spencer and decided to put the bridge on the ninth hole. What a great spot it turned out to be! Arkansas fieldstone was the choice for the bridge. Close to 20 tons were used to build the bridge. Greg Stephens from Clare, IL was the choice to "create" this beautiful tribute. We caught a break in the early spring and were able to complete the bridge in about a month. Wes was on the site almost every day to make sure his special tribute was done right. It was!

On May 18, the bridge was dedicated. Family, friends and club members all met in the clubhouse. A duo of a bagpiper and a drummer,

adorned in all of their Scottish attire, led the group to the bridge. Many family members had followed suit with the Scottish garb. It was one of those unseasonably cool days, but the warmth of love and memories made it feel like the middle of August. It was my pleasure to help make the bridge happen. The plaque on the bridge reads:

*The Andrew Marshall King Bridge
Dedicated To Those Lost,
Sept. 11, 2001
The King Family & Friends –
he loved this course . . .*

Come out some time and walk across Andrew's bridge and say hello to Andrew as you pass over a fine tribute to a unique man.

