

March 9 2010

Recommendation for Don W. Wiley to the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame

It is with pleasure that I recommend Mr. Don Wiley as a viable candidate for the El Paso Hall of Fame. Don Wiley is an upstanding citizen who has lived all of his 69 years in El Paso, Texas.

Don attended Ysleta High School where he was a varsity quarterback for three years, amassing a passing record that still stands. Along with football, he was on the varsity baseball team as a pitcher and varsity basketball team. Upon graduation he was offered a scholarship to Texas Tech University and New Mexico Military Institute, but was unable to accept as he was injured in the last high school football game of the year.

After graduating from Texas Western College where he earned a BBA, Don entered the U.S. Marines, became a pilot and served in Viet Nam as a Captain. He was injured in combat, lost his left arm and suffered severe leg and internal injuries hospitalizing him for a year and a half.

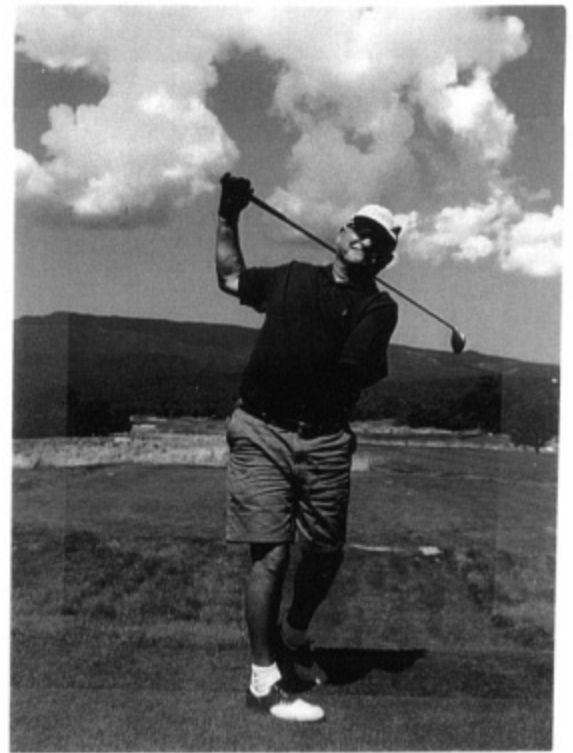
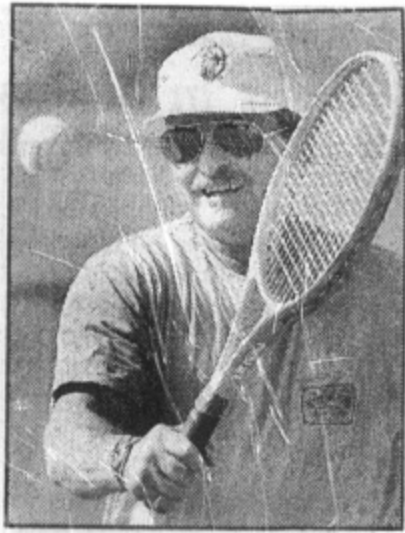
Being an excellent golfer, Don was disappointed with his injuries feeling his golfing days were over. He collected himself, realizing the ball did not know whether he had one or two arms. He began learning golf with his one right arm and after much practice, was able to shoot comfortably in the eighties and sometimes even dipping into the seventies. Soon Don developed severe back problems stemming from his war injury. The Doctor told him he would need to learn golf one armed (left hand golf) polo swing if he was to continue. Don changed and now has a 17 handicap. Fifteen years ago Don was diagnosed with severe rheumatoid arthritis. This would not defeat him. He continued to golf. Two months ago Don's thumb ligament ruptured due to rheumatoid arthritis. He currently has limited use of his thumb. This hasn't stopped Don; he is still shooting in the high 80's with 4 fingers.

Don also took up tennis when he was 45 years of age and progressed to the 4.0 level very quickly, winning several times in singles and doubles competitions.

Don has been a member of the El Maida Shrine, Jesters and the Sheriff's Posse. Several afternoons a week, Don goes to Santa Teresa driving range. If someone asks him a question, he is always generous with his time. He takes great interest in young people's games and occasionally he will share his practice knowledge with them. He is never overbearing, and offers advice and information in the form of assistance and not from a reference point of knowing it all.

An acceptance into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame would be a fitting and proper honor to a true gentleman who has given much for his community and country. He always has been and remains one of the most gifted athletes I have had the pleasure of knowing, but more importantly has always played every sport with character, decency and dignity. I recommend with fervor, Don Wiley for the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,
Tracy Fletcher



DON WILEY

- All District Quarterback Ysleta High 1957-58
- Varsity Quarterback 1956-58
- Varsity Baseball pitcher
- Varsity Basketball Guard
- Softball Industrial League second/third baseman
- One arm 4.0 tennis player
- One arm golfer with right hand clubs and left hand clubs 17 handicap
- Viet Nam Helicopter Medivac Pilot
- El Paso resident for 69 years