

Terry Ray Jennings

1951 - 2020



Terry Ray Jennings
1951 – 2020

Terry was born in Bonne Terre, Missouri. His father was a greens keeper and eventually the family ended up at NMSU. Terry attended NMSU where he played golf and won several amateur tournaments. In 1974 he won the New Mexico State University championship tournament and became a College Golf All American in 1974.

Terry became a PGA Golf Professional in 1978. He worked as an Assistant Golf Professional at Vista Hills Country Club from 1978 to 1979. He then became a Head Golf Professional at Horizon Golf Course from 1979 to 1980. Terry then went back to Vista Hills Country Club as Head Golf Professional until the club closed in 2019. He was inducted into the El Paso Golf Hall of Fame in 1988. During his time as a PGA professional he won several awards and honors including the Pat Gavin PGA Professional Development award and Sun Country PGA player of the year.

One of the things that Terry did in his professional career was promote and encourage youth and young adult golf. He worked with many of the area high schools to provide them with practice areas, held summer golf camps for youth, and helped with high school and Junior PGA tournaments.

In summary, Terry Jennings spent his professional career helping people enjoy the game of golf. He was always available to help someone with their golf game, tournaments and everything in between. He should be remembered and honored by being inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.



TERRY JENNINGS

1998

Sports

Vista Hills pro Jennings shared love of golf

Bret Bloomquist
El Paso Times
USA TODAY NETWORK — TEXAS

Terry Jennings' big joy in life came in sharing his love of golf with youths and teaching them the game.

For 40 years, almost his entire professional life, he did that at Vista Hills Golf Course as the head pro.

Jennings passed away Friday at the age of 68 after an eight-month battle with cancer, almost a year to the day after Vista Hills closed.

Terry loved everybody, especially young golfers," his friend Gary Barton said. "If a kid showed up at Vista Hills, he didn't have to pay for range balls. He loved my son so much, they worked together for four years.

Terry would do anything for young golfers."

Barton's son, Jeffery is now the director of instruction at Preston Trail Golf Course in the Metroplex.

"He was a mentor, another father figure for me," Jeffery Barton said of Jen-

nings. "He's the reason I'm in the golf business, he gave me a passion at an early age. He taught me the game, he gave me my first job.

There were 10 or 12 of us there at Vista Hills (in the late 1990s), six or seven of us went on to play college golf. He gave us the run of the place. I'm just heartbroken."

Jennings was a two-time All-American golfer himself at New Mexico State in the mid-1970s, then took a job as an assistant pro at Vista Hills. After one year there he went to Horizon Golf Course for a year, then was back at Vista Hills in 1980 as head pro. He stayed there until it closed.

"He was an amazing man," said his friend Pete Solis. "He was always helping kids, that's what he loved doing. Everybody who knew him loved him. He was always supporting the high school teams."

Bret Bloomquist can be reached at 915-546-6359; bbloomquist@elpasotimes.com; @Bretbloomquist on Twitter.



Vista Hills Country Club sits vacant at 2210 Trawood Dr. in El Paso.

BRIANA SANCHEZ/EL PASO TIMES

Dear El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Selection Committee,

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for PGA Golf Professional Terry Jennings induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. Terry served as the Head Golf Professional at Vista Hills Country Club for over 30 years where he served the membership and grew the game of golf on El Paso's east side. Terry's passion for the game and junior development was unmatched. He and the membership at Vista Hills created a culture that was inviting to juniors and nurtured their development and growth - not only as golfers but as young men and women. Terry's influence helped countless young men and women play golf at the collegiate level.

He was certainly a mentor and coach in my life, both personally and professionally, and any success I have had as a PGA Professional has had a direct correlation to that mentorship. I miss him dearly. I hope that the selection committee will strongly consider Terry in the posthumous category in this year's class.

Sincerely,

Jeff Barton
PGA Director of Instruction
Preston Trail Golf Club
17201 Preston Trail Drive
Dallas, TX 75248

To: The El Paso Golf Hall of Fame Selection Committee
From: Henry Felix
Subject: Nomination of Terry Jennings
Date: April 8, 2021

Dear Committee Members,

As a former inductee to the EP Golf Hall of fame please accept my recommendation and endorsement to select former Golf Professional at Vista Hills CC, Terry Jennings, posthumously to the El Paso Golf Hall of Fame.

My recommendation is based on 24 years of working closely and in tandem with Terry, or "Pro" as he was known to all of us at Vista Hills CC. As a former Golf Coach at Hanks HS I usually spent most afternoons at Vista Hills with the Hanks Golf team and developed an enduring relationship with Pro. Terry was a champion of youth and high school golf and was the biggest advocate of our program. Terry went out of his way to support our program and always defended and stood up for us over the years at countless meetings with club members who I am sure questioned our never ending afternoon presence at Vista Hills. He was our staunchest supporter. We had many successes at Hanks HS over the years but I doubt we would not have been able to achieve all we did had it not been for the support of "Pro".

Besides being a true champion of youth golf Terry had a distinguished Collegiate career at NMSU and local PGA area events and was highly regarded by his fellow PGA peers.

Please accept this recommendation to posthumously admit Terry Jennings to the upcoming class of inductees to the El Paso Golf Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,
Henry Felix
J.M. Hanks High School Golf Coach, 1984-2008
El Paso Golf Hall of Fame Inductee 2007

Terry Jennings (Pro)

From: Kathleen Lopez (kdsinglop@hotmail.com)

To: solispeter64@yahoo.com

Date: Thursday, April 8, 2021, 06:53 PM MDT

April 8, 2021

Dear Committee Members,

It is with great pleasure to recommend former Golf Professional at Vista Hills Country Club, Terry Jennings, posthumously, to the El Paso Golf Hall of Fame.

As a former Golf coach at Hanks High School and his associate in the Pro Shop, I witnessed his generous support and contribution to Youth and High School Golf. Terry's love and passion for golf, was never ending.

Terry was the biggest advocate for Hanks High School Golf program, as well as , other high school programs in the city. He would allow practices and golf tournaments to be played at Vista Hills on a regular basis, to include fundraising. In the Pro Shop he worked tirelessly to make sure the facility was kept up to meet the highest of standards.

Terry Jenning, was not only my colleague, golf partner, mentor, boss in the pro shop; but a wonderful friend. Please accept this recommendation to posthumously admit Terry Jennings to the upcoming class of inductees to the El Paso Golf Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Daniel Lopez
JM Hanks High School Golf Coach
2009-214