

For immediate release

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## Beck and Lathrop to Enter Carolinas Golf Hall of Fame

Three-time Ryder Cup representative, Chip Beck, and long-time South Carolina golf administrator, Happ Lathrop, will be inducted to the Carolinas Golf Hall of Fame in Pinehurst, NC on the evening of Monday, August 25. The duo was elected from a pool of nominations by members of the Carolinas Golf Reporters Association. This year's induction ceremonies come the day after the conclusion of the U.S. Amateur Championship at Pinehurst.

The Carolinas Golf Hall of Fame inducted its first members in 1981. This year's inductions take the total membership in the Hall of Fame to 65. Brief biographies of the new inductees follow:

**Charles Henry "Chip" Beck** was born in Fayetteville, NC in 1956. Following an outstanding high school career at Terry Sanford in Fayetteville, he attended the University of Georgia where he was a three-time All-American. He was named the school's Athlete of the Year as a senior.

Beck won four times on the PGA Tour — 1988 Los Angeles Open and USF&G Classic, 1990 Buick Open, 1992 Freeport-McMoRan Classic — and was runner-up in 20 other events. He was tied for second in the 1986 and 1989 U.S. Opens and was runner-up to Bernhard Langer in the 1993 Masters. He was named to three Ryder Cup Teams (1989-91-93) and played a key role in the U.S. win at Kiawah in 1991's "War by the Shore."

Beck became the second player on the PGA Tour to shoot 59 when he accomplished that feat at the Sunrise Golf Club in the 1991 Las Vegas Invitational in a round where he had five pars and 13 birdies, including a three-footer on the final hole. He also became the first player to score a hole-in-one on a par-4 on the Nationwide Tour in the 2003 Omaha Classic. It was only the second par-4 ace scored under the PGA Tour umbrella.

Beck won the Vardon Trophy for low stroke average on the PGA Tour in 1988. He had career earnings of \$6,841,741 on the Tour. Today he lives in Chicago, Ill., with his wife Karen, and has played on the Champions Tour since turning 50 in 2006.

Regarded by many as "Mr. Golf" in South Carolina, **Happ Lathrop** has presided over the game as executive director of the South Carolina Golf Association across four decades. In 1976, he became the first full-time employee of the South Carolina Golf Association when membership involved 99 clubs (about 11,500 golfers) and assets stood at \$50,000. Today, 32 years later, the association commands more than \$1-million in assets and represents the interests of more than 70,000 golfers across nearly 300 clubs.

A fine player in his own right, Lathrop won the state amateur championship in 1968 as an 18-year-old, becoming the youngest to do so at that time. He was South Carolina Inter-Collegiate Champion in the same year. Yet it is his service as an administrator that he is best known for.

Lathrop also helped create one of the most successful and respected junior development programs in the country, through the South Carolina Junior Golf Association (1989) and the South Carolina

Junior Golf Foundation (1995). In addition to producing numerous PGA Tour players, those organizations have fostered strong and healthy competition for juniors and awarded more than \$300,000 in education scholarships and well over \$100,000 to organizations for minority and disadvantaged youth.

For all of the events and organizations Lathrop has had a hand in creating or running, his efforts brokering relationships, sponsorships, and general goodwill for golf in the state are just as far-reaching. He was inducted into the South Carolina Golf Hall of Fame in 1997 and has also been recognized as Father-of-the-Year by the National Father and Son Team Classic tournament in Myrtle Beach.

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