

THE 20TH AAGHOF ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WAS AMAZING!

MAY 22-26, 2025







**"African American Golfers Hall of Fame
& African American Collegiate and
Youth Golfers Hall of Fame Celebration"**

P.O. Box 10572, Riviera Beach, FL 33419

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www.africanamericangolfershalloffame.com or www.icyg.org

African American
Collegiate & Youth
Golfers Hall of Fame



"The 20th AAGHOF Anniversary Celebration Was Amazing"

West Palm Beach, FL (May 31, 2025) - The *"20th Annual African American Golfers Hall of Fame Conference, Golf Tournament, Reception, Dinner, Auction & Awards Celebration,"* & *"Annual African American Collegiate & Youth Golfers Hall of Fame"* was held all over Palm Beach County, FL during the period May 21-26, 2025. **It was simply amazing!** The mission was *"to celebrate and honor the history and achievements of African Americans and other significant supporters who have contributed to growing the game of golf since the early 1800's."* It was also our sincere hope "to challenge the excellence from our youth" in this forum through golf – now, and in the future! **"All was accomplished and some!"**

In brief, but not for a few days of friendly networking, some of the most significant and historical activities were as follows:

May 21, Wednesday

6:00PM: Welcome reception for the Bahamas Professional Golfers Federation led by its President Glenville Pratt (Nassau, Bahamas) in Riviera Beach, FL.

May 22, Thursday

10:00AM: International Golf Meeting w/Bahamas Professional Golfers Federation; Palm Beach County Sports Commission, Palm Beach County Tourist Development Council; Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation Department, Fairview Golf Club; Inner City Youth Golfers', Inc.; AAGHOF & AAC&YGHOF. While it was the first meeting between all the parties, much was accomplished as a framework to share the benefits and economics around golf as a sport and an educational activity for our youth.

12:00PM: Lunch with Bahamas Professional Golfers Federation

4:00PM: "Open House", African American Golfers Museum & Inner City Youth Golfers Clubhouse, Inc., 125 W. 13th Street, Riviera Beach, Fla – "Ribbon Cutting" by Herbert L. Dixon (105 Years old), Bartow, Fla; Victoria Kingdom (96 years old), Riviera Beach, Fla; Malachi Knowles, Founder & President, Riviera Beach, Fla.; others from around the USA and especially those from the Bahamas Professional Golfers Federation Board of Governors. Mr. Dixon is the oldest African American Pro Golfer in the world. All are members of AAGHOF. Kurt Gehring, President & CEO, The Gehring Group surprised the attendees with a sizeable building fund donation. Proclamations were presented from the Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners sponsored by Commissioner Bobby Powell, Jr. and Riviera Beach Mayor Douglas Alexander Lawson.

5:30PM: "Meet & Greet Poolside Reception", Host Hotel: Holiday Inn Express

May 23, Friday

8:45AM: Opening Session – Emanuel Perry, Executive Director, Tourist Development Council of Palm Beach County; George W. Linley, II, Executive Director, Palm Beach County Sports Commission and Malachi Knowles

10:00AM: Educational Roundtable I: "The Business of Golf" – Moderator: Michael W. Cooper, Ph.D., Senior Advisor HBCU Initiative, USGA & Glenville Pratt, President & Founder, Bahamas Professional Golfers Federation, Nassau, Bahamas

1:00PM: "ICYG Scholarship Golf Tournament"

6:00PM: "Founder's Annual Fish Fry" Host Hotel

May 24, Saturday

9:00AM: Educational Roundtable II: "Golf Careers" – Moderator: Leonard Smoot, Jr., Miles College Head Golf Coach/President of the Black College Golf Coaches Association; Kevin L. Jennings, Sr., Head Men's Golf Coach, Central Michigan University and Darrell Ray Washington, Director,

"Celebrating the Accomplishments of Yesterday While Paving the Way for Tomorrow!"



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Verdenia C. Baker, Palm Beach County Trailblazer Award
Doug Mosley, Sports Impact Award
ESPN West Palm, Inaugural Sports Business of the Year Award

Special thanks to Esmeralda H. Knowles, Executive Director, Inner City Youth Golfers', Inc.; Kurt & Linda Gehring; Marsha G. Oliver, Senior Vice President, Community & Public Engagement; PGA TOUR; James Garvin, Jr., AAC&YGHOF Advisory Bd. Chair & Darius A. Davis, PGA, Co-Chair; Ronald M. Dumas, PGA, AAGHOF Int'l Advisory Board Chair; Palm Beach County Sports Commission; Riviera Beach CRA; EDJ & Associates; Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation, Palm Beach County Tourist Development Council; Christine's Hope For Kids; Gehring Group; Palm Beach PGA TOUR Superstore; Cheney Brothers; ICYG Volunteer Faculty; ICYG; AAGHOF and AAC&YGHOF Boards of Directors; Educational Roundtable Moderators: Michael W. Cooper, Ph.D. & Leonard Smoot, Jr.; Bear Lakes Country Club; Cognizant Classic in the Palm Beaches; Signs by Tomorrow, WPB; Eastpointe Country Club Staff and the Holiday Inn Express & Suites staff for making this a very successful celebration!

Don't forget: **"Say NO To Drugs – Say YES To Education, Culture & Golf"** Save These Dates: May 21-25, 2026
For more information, please email Esmeralda H. Knowles, ICYG Executive Director at icyginc@gmail.com or call (561) 844-8774.



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