

THE CHARLIE BURKART STORY

This below story is included in the Elmcrest Country Club Yearbook as a significant part of its history, as a fond remembrance for those who knew Charlie Burkart and to pass along the story of a much-loved man to those who came along later.

Charles Burkart was born on April 8, 1907. Involved in golf at an early age, he became the pro at a course in Iowa City. In early 1930, Charlie borrowed the money to buy the first driving range in Marion. A gentleman by the name of Nick Carter built a daily fee golf course in the community of Kenmore in 1934 and hired Charlie as Head Professional. In July of 1947, several prominent businessmen leased the golf course from Mr. Carter, thus forming Elmcrest Golf & Country Club. By this time the community of Kenmore was known as the Northeast side of Cedar Rapids.

Charlie was there from the very beginning and for 42 years of service to the community and the membership of Elmcrest, retiring in 1975. He married Ethel McDonald on October 31, 1935. The Burkhart's had three children, Ted, Al and Lynn. Ethel died in 1981 and Charlie died of cancer at age 74 on December 12, 1983 at Mercy Hospital.

Charlie was an excellent player, known for his flawless swing and record-breaking rounds of golf. One of his greatest contributions to the game was his love of children and his efforts to involve them by organizing youth clinics and programs. Back in the good old days, Charlie spent many of his hours working patiently with Junior golfers, diligently teaching them the code of ethic in golf and the skills to play the game. His belief in sharing and passing down the traditional grand old game served to make him one of the greatest promoters of golf in this area.

Charlie was a life member of the Professional Golfers Association of America and Past President of the Iowa Section of the PGA. He truly believed and exemplified the Code of Ethics of the PGA, which states that the name "Professional Golfer" must be a synonym with pledge of honor, service and fair dealing, professional integrity, fidelity to the game, responsibility to employers and employees and others. Charlie lived by these rules.

Today, the memory of Charles Burkart lives on. The Charlie Burkart Scholarship Fund, sponsored by the Iowa Section PGA, was formed in 1984 by his daughter, the late Lynn Hendryx and former Elmcrest professional Larry Hartzell. The Scholarship awards a \$1000 four year college scholarship each year to an Iowa PGA Section high school senior. The criteria for recipients include interest and potential for future contributions to the game of golf.



IOWA PGA FOUNDATION
CHARLIE BURKART SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

High School: _____ Graduation Date: _____

Parent Phone: _____ Applicant Cell Phone: _____

Parent Email: _____ Applicant Email: _____

I have been accepted at a college or university. Yes _____ No _____

College institution planning on attending: _____

I certify that the above information is correct. Signature: _____

The Iowa PGA Foundation annually awards a college scholarship in memory of Iowa Golf Hall of Famer, Charlie Burkart, PGA member for 49 years and head professional at the Elmcrest Country Club in Cedar Rapids for 42 years. At least one high school graduate will be the 2026 recipient of \$1500 per year for four years.

Any graduating high school senior residing within the boundaries of the Iowa PGA Foundation and the State of Iowa is eligible to apply. The Iowa PGA Foundation is bounded on the west by U.S. Highway 71 and includes an area of western Illinois from a point north of Quincy, east to near Springfield and directly north. It includes the major cities of Monmouth, Macomb, Galesburg, Moline, Rock Island, Kewanee and Galena. It does not include the cities of Freeport, Springfield or Quincy.

Scholarship winners are selected on the basis of their interest and activity in golf, the potential for future contributions to the game, leadership skills/community involvement, then on their academic/professional ability and financial need.

Applicants must email/mail completed application to the scholarship committee on or prior to **June 15, 2026**.

Send to: Iowa PGA Foundation, 3184 Highway 22, Riverside, IA 52327
Call 319-648-0026 with any questions.

Burkart applicants are required to submit the following when applying:

1. High school transcript of work completed and description of any post-secondary academic achievement.
2. Two recommendations – may be from a high school administrator or teacher, a PGA professional or other non-family connections.
3. Applicant must include a self-statement concerning his/her interest in golf, other activities and awards, his/her educational and vocational plans/career goals and financial need.

Applicant is requested to send a list of other scholarship they have applied for and those that they have received.