



Marathon Men

Thirteen PGA Sections raise money for the Folds of Honor Foundation by competing in the Marine Corps Marathon

By Bob Denney

PGA Professionals representing 13 PGA Sections completed a grueling 26.2-mile test in Washington, D.C., in late October, during the 34th Marine Corps Marathon, while raising \$80,000 for the Folds of Honor Foundation and Section charitable foundations.

More than 21,000 runners competed in the Marine Corps Marathon, including a contingent of 26 runners, 16 of which are PGA Professionals, competing for their respective PGA Sections.

The PGA of America presence was coordinated by South Florida PGA Executive Director Geoff Lofstead, who had approached Folds of Honor Founder Maj. Dan Rooney of Broken Arrow, Okla., in 2008 with the idea that could advance a new pathway for fundraising for the Foundation.

Lofstead competed in his fourth career marathon, finishing in 3 hours, 50 minutes, 29 seconds, which translated to placing 3,262nd in the massive field.

"What made the whole effort so special was the dinner we all had the night before the race," said Lofstead, a resident of Coral Springs, Fla. "We went around the room and spoke about our personal stories about why we wanted to be in the marathon. As for the race, the weather was a perfect 50 degrees when we started and did not reach 60 until when we had finished."

Rooney, his wife Jacqy and a family friend, Scott Brandt of Kansas City, Kan., finished side by side at the finish line in 4 hours, 22 minutes, 59 seconds.

"If it had not been for Geoff Lofstead, I don't know if we ever would have got this movement underway. It was inspiring, it was painful, but it was one of the most meaningful experiences I have had

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