

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 19, 2017



DECORATED WAR VETERAN AND GOLFER HARRELD KIRKPATRICK DIES AT 97

BOYTON BEACH, Fla. -- Harreld Kirkpatrick, who was friends with legendary golfer Bobby Jones and played with Hall of Famers Ben Hogan, Byron Nelson, Jackie Burke Jr. and Babe Zaharias after a military career that included being awarded five Purple Hearts, died Monday after a short illness.

Mr. Kirkpatrick, a longtime resident of Quail Ridge Country Club in Boynton Beach, Fla., was 97.

In addition to his friendship with Jones, Mr. Kirkpatrick played practice rounds with Hogan at the 1953 U.S. Open at Oakmont and Babe Zaharias at the 1954 World Championship at Tam O'Shanter (the world's richest golf tournament at the time). Kirkpatrick also got to play matches with Burke against Hogan and Nelson on the Wednesday before the Masters when there was no Par-3 Tournament.

"I was just in the right place at the right time," said Mr. Kirkpatrick, who recorded most of his career highlights on a video that features shots of more than 12 Hall of Famers in their prime.

Mr. Kirkpatrick could play a little himself. The longtime Kentucky resident won more than 100 amateur titles even though he stopped playing for 20 years to run a coal company, and the Kentucky Golf Association honored him by naming their State Senior Amateur trophy after him.

Mr. Kirkpatrick qualified for the 1951 British Senior Amateur Championship and the 1955 British Open.

Mr. Kirkpatrick was a scholarship athlete at Murray State University, and served with distinction in the U.S. Navy in World War II — participating in the 1944 Normandy invasion — and was awarded five Purple Hearts during his service.

Mr. Kirkpatrick, who retired to Quail Ridge in 1980, was inducted into the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame, the Senior Golfers of America Hall of Fame and the Quail Ridge Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. Kirkpatrick is survived by his wife, Marion. The family will be planning arrangements for services to be held in November.

###