

## **Paul Ryiz Inducted Into the Connecticut Section PGA Professional Hall of Fame**

By: Russ Held, November 21, 2016

Golf was everything for Bob Bodington.

“Golf was his life,” said Bob’s younger brother Fred Bodington.

And Bob’s passion for the game has landed him the posthumous distinction of being a member of the Connecticut Section PGA’s Hall of Fame Class of 2016. Bodington passed away at age 89 in 2014.

He will be honored with a group that includes Tony Rowe, Paul Ryiz and Ted and Stan Pisk. The Hall of Fame and Champions Tribute takes place at Lake of Isles in North Stonington on November 28.

Connecticut Section PGA Executive Director Tom Hantke welcomed each into the Hall of Fame.

“This year’s class of inductees represents a broad cross section of the Connecticut Section PGA’s golf professional heritage, both in terms of generational era and service to the game of golf,” Hantke said. “The Stan and Ted Pisk father to son passing of the torch begins during WWII and spans through the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

“Bob Bodington was the consummate golf professional of his time during the 1960s and ‘70s, and a leader of the section in the formidable developmental years of the organizations growth, whereas the careers of Tony Rowe and Paul Ryiz represent a parallel of the golf professional’s evolution of as mentor, promoter, statesman, teacher and player.”

Bodington was best known throughout the Section for his 23 years as head professional at Hartford Golf Club in West Hartford. His career in golf included time at Country Club of Farmington, and at iconic clubs such as Newport (R.I.) Country Club (twice), Brae Burn CC in West Newton, Mass., and Seminole Golf Club in Juno Beach, Fla.

The native of West Compton, R.I., was honored as the Connecticut Section PGA’s Golf Professional of the Year in 1968 and he served as the Section’s President in 1967 and 1968.

As a top-notch player, his biggest win may have been the Connecticut PGA Championship in 1957 after holing a 50-foot bunker shot at the 17<sup>th</sup> hole. He also won the likes of the Section’s Pro-Assistant Championship in 1963 and 1964 and the 1979 Senior Connecticut PGA Championship in a playoff.

Bodington caddied at Sakonnet GC in Little Compton, before private schooling took him through Mount Hermon School for Boys in Northfield, Mass.

Soon after, he spent time during World War II building hospitals, bridges and airstrips in the South Pacific as a Seabee with the U.S. Naval Construction Forces.

Bodington spent time on the staff of Claude Harmon while wintering in Florida, before landing his first head pro job at Newport CC. He moved on to Farmington in 1955, operating what could be the oldest pro shop in the country - the “Little Red Shop.” He then moved on to Hartford GC three years later.

Bodington was married to wife Helen for 54 years, before she passed away in 2009. Helen played a big role in Bodington’s pro shops and the couple did not have children. They retired in the Juno Beach, Fla., area.

