



THE CALIFORNIA SHUFFLEBOARD HALL OF FAME

Induction Ceremony Honoring

Steve Floyd

Presented at
Exeter Eagles Lodge
Exeter, California

July 5, 2008

CALIFORNIA SHUFFLEBOARD HALL OF FAME

INDUCTION CEREMONY

For

STEVE FLOYD

Saturday, July 5, 2008

At

Exeter Eagles Lodge
Exeter, California

Master of Ceremonies

Rick Thomas
CSHOF Vice President

Tributes

Robbi Gann

Wes Martin

David Keithahn

Warren Goldsmith

Induction and Award Presentation

Jim Martin
CSHOF President

STEVE FLOYD



Steve Floyd was born in Roswell, New Mexico on March 26, 1945. His family moved to Bakersfield, CA in 1947 and then to San Luis

He came from a large family with 5 brothers and 3 sisters, so he learned how to compete at an early age. He played fast-pitch softball for several years at short stop and 3rd base. His teams won city and county league trophies. At one time, his team played against the Arizona Kings, a well-known team that included fellow shuffler Gil Aragon.

Steve served in the United States Army for two years. He spent 13 months of that time in Korea. After he got out of the service in 1967, Steve got married and had two children; daughter Denise born April 26, 1970 and son Steve, born March 23, 1977. He worked for the State Highway Department for twelve years until he was injured on the job.

In 1980, the Floyd family moved to Visalia and bought Mr. G's Card Room not long afterwards. Steve worked the card room and his wife Patsy ran the bar. The bar had been previously owned by fellow California Shuffleboard Hall of Famer Bobby Goldsmith, but there was a gap of about three years when someone else had it. The bar came equipped with a shuffleboard, but Steve wasn't a player.

Marion Bailey and Jim McDonald told Steve that if he wasn't going to take an interest in the game of shuffleboard, he might as well use

his board for kindling wood. Marion and Jim taught him the game and he soon found out how addicting the game really is. Steve says: "You have to pay the price to learn the game and when you think you know the game – you pay even more."

It wasn't long before word got out that if you wanted shuffleboard action – Visalia was the place to go. Mr. G's had been a hot spot for shuffleboard for years when Bobby Goldsmith owned the bar. A lot of great players passed through Mr. G's in the 1980's and 1990's for sessions and challenge games when Steve owned it. In a 1991 *Board Talk* article, traveling shuffleboard ambassador Glen Davidson claimed: "Steve Floyd and Larry Newell are the action now in California...Its tough action, but they will play and for a bunch."



Steve feels that his best tournament performance was at Mr. G's 1997 Memorial Day Tournament. He and partner Nick Chaffin went through the Pro Doubles field undefeated including the tough team of Dave Keithahn and Larry Newell who took second place.

Steve played in many of the major tournaments in California, Las Vegas and Reno and often ended up in the money. He also ran large tournaments at Mr. G's

Steve is proud of his part in promoting shuffleboard in Central California and said: "I love the game of shuffleboard and all the people involved with the game."

TESTAMONIALS

Oh boy, the stories I can tell you – and the ones I can't tell.

I first met Steve at Mr. G's. I found that we had a lot in common and that's where our friendship started. I was a pool hustler but Steve said: "There's no money in pool anymore; its cards and shuffleboard." He was right. I watched him play horse collar for \$100, then I saw him play another man for \$1,000 a game. Steve then lent the man he beat money to get home on. I asked him: "Why did you do that? You will never see the money again." He said: "Shuffleboard people are not like that." We went to Las Vegas and the old boy was there. He came right up to Steve and paid him.

I took my first road trip with Steve and watched him clean out a guy for \$200 or \$300 a game. Steve gave me and another buddy some action. Steve won about \$3,000 and the guy said he was out of money, so they played on credit. I had some of the action and when Steve won, he paid us right then and there. We told him we could wait until he got his money, but Steve would have nothing of that.

I have seen guys come into Mr. G's and lose their paychecks. Steve would loan them money to get through, he was that kind of guy. He taught me how to play shuffleboard. Steve, Sal and I ran the first shuffleboard tournament at Mr. G's after Bobby Goldsmith's ownership. Steve would take anybody for a partner. Steve was one of the most liked persons around for his competitiveness.

One time, he and I lost and I was laughing. Steve came to me and said: "I am looking for a new partner, one who does not like to lose. I do not have fun when I lose at anything."

Steve is a great guy, and is great for the game. Congratulations for the induction to the Hall of Fame. You deserve it.

Wes Martin



From July 1998 Board Talk. *Host Steve Floyd (right) presents the first place ABC draw envelope to winning team – Bob Brunskill, Siobhan Posthumus, and Bob Lindahl.*

Steve Floyd – a one of a kind! Where to start?

I wish I had a dollar for every hour I played with or against him. Or, even a dollar for every four I've seen him lag! The best in the world used to drive hundreds of miles past Mr. G's looking for action because Steve and Larry [Newell] were laying there in wait!

Some of the best times of my life were playing at G's with Steve, Larry, my Dad and Aunt, Marion, Davey, Jim McDonald, Sal and Tom Back (just to name a few), keeping the board going for 20 to 30 hours at a time with Patsy madder than a wet hen, looking for a chainsaw! But, even she loved the game, and all of us too. And, I love you Steve Floyd! It's not only my pleasure to call you friend, it's my honor.

My Dad put Mr.G's and shuffleboard on the map, you more than kept it there in fine fashion. Words could never say how much he was proud of your for that. You are well deserving of your Hall of Fame induction. Your "Home Crowd" is proud to be your Home Crowd. We love you. Thanks for all the fun, good times and severe competition!

Love & God bless,
Warren Goldsmith



***Steve with Pat Preymak
& Tony Souza.
Winners of the ABC
Draw at the Dixie Belle,
July 1996***

Until I moved to Visalia, the only times I saw you were when you came to L.A. for tournaments. Everyone was glad to see you and have the support of you and the other players from Visalia. We had to play our best to beat your players, but it was always our pleasure to see you and the friends you brought with you.

Since I have moved to Visalia, I have gotten to play more shuffleboard against you and to see you in action. You are a great player, treat others with respect and are very deserving of this honor.

Congratulations!

Bobbi Duncan

One of our fears when we sold Mr. G's was that it would end the shuffleboard play in our area. Steve bought Mr. G's and became a top player and was ready for action. Once again, the game of shuffleboard thrived!

Steve is very much a part of the shuffleboard world, traveling to tournaments and spreading good will. Steve has also become a very good friend to all of our family.

Congratulations Steve! You play your part well and deserve your place in the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

With Love and Affection,

Bobby & Charlene Goldsmith



Steve with daughter Denise. Steve with John McGinnis



Steve with Denise, Jimmy Martin & Linda Wright



Steve, John McGinnis, Vern Booth & Jimmy Martin

I have known Steve since the early 90's. Since then, I have come to know him even better. We have shared our time together and I am here to tell you – he is not only a good friend, he is one hell of a competitor. He has a great love for the sport of shuffleboard and supported the game for many years in the Visalia area at Mr. G's. Several players have told me that some of the best action in the country was played there. Steve, along with the likes of Bobby Goldsmith, Larry Newell and Marion Bailey, were some of the toughest action you could ever find.

But, as I sit here trying to collect all the past memories of my good friend, all I can seem to think about is the last few days in which I have spoken to Steve while he is in the hospital fighting the biggest challenges of his life. The very thought of lagging a three or sticking a weight just doesn't come to mind. What does, is my hope and prayers that Steve will be able to go around this most difficult challenge that he faces and hang on to the edge for many more years to come. I know one thing for sure, he is not a quitter.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the California Hall of Fame. I once again want to leave you with a quote from Winston Churchill:

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts."

I, along with all of your good friends at ET's, want to congratulate you. We are looking forward to sharing many more good times together with you.

Sincerely,
Jim Martin



Steve and Al Pease. 3rd Place in Pro Bring Partner at the 2001 Southwest Open.

Visalia has been a great stop for shuffleboard for 50 years, thanks to the great Bobby Goldsmith and Mr. G's and to the new Mr. G's and Steve Floyd. Like Bobby, he started out as a promoter and in time became a top player. It was always tough action and Steve made sure it didn't change.

Steve and I mostly played against each other through the years. We became good friends doing so. We did play in the doubles event together at one tournament in Reno, but other than that, we were mainly competitors.

I'm sure that all of Visalia is happy to see Steve follow Bobby Goldsmith and Marian Bailey into the C.S.H.O.F. I think he's a great addition. Good players and good people are hard to find.

Congratulations Steve!
Always a friend,
Hal Perry

Congratulations Steve, for being inducted to the California Shuffleboard Hall of fame. You are a very nice man and I have enjoyed knowing you throughout the years. People like you are why I keep playing the game.

English John

Congratulations Steve, on your induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. A strong player with talent, no fear of any player, along with superb gamesmanship, makes your induction a much deserved honor. And I should well know — playing against you left me with a flat wallet on multiple occasions. You have my total respect, Steve. I look forward to seeing you at the induction.

Bob Hunt.



Steve & Judy Morphis, 3rd in AB draw, Exeter, July 2000



***Steve with Paulette McKinney, Rick Gindt, & Kenny Hawkes
3rd Place Division I Team, Southwest Open, 2001***

A wonderful new addition to the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame; Steve Floyd. You have been a great shuffleboard player, promoter, good friend and host to all players.

Shuffleboard would have suffered a big loss in Visalia had it not been for you. You promoted and kept shuffleboard alive and going in Mr. G's club for many years as this was the only bar in the area that supported our wonderful family of shuffleboard players. There have been a lot of new friendships made at Mr. G's, also a lot of dollars that exchanged hands. We had a lot of long, pleasurable weekends at this hospitable club.

Steve has been my honorable friend for many years and will always be. He is well deserving of the honor of being inducted into our great Hall of Fame in the state of California.

Stand tall and be the great man you have always been. It's been my pleasure having you as my friend.

Marion Bailey

What always comes to mind is the word "fearless." I can't recall ever seeing a weight he didn't want to 'circle' or out lag.

As the proprietor of Mr. G's, he was always a good host to the shuffleboard players that came to play in the tournaments there.

I remember seeing Steve and Larry Newell playing in Las Vegas in the early 90's. They had played in the amateur team event and after that was over, they played challenge games. I thought they were being foolish since they had finished quite well in the team event which meant that they had already been playing for hours. They lost the first game by quite a bit, but still wanted to continue playing. I left shortly afterwards and they were still playing.

Congratulations Steve, on your induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Bob Brunskill

I heartily endorse Steve Floyd's induction to the CSHOF. He has been a promoter and good friend for many years.

Rich Warren

Congratulations Steve, on your induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. You have been a great player and promoter when you had Mr. G's. I am glad I can count you as a friend. Congratulations again!

Paul Weber

Steve, you are a great player and a great friend. Thanks to you, shuffleboard carried on after my Dad sold Mr. G's. Russ and I have a lot of memories that circle around you and the camaraderie that we all share.

Steve, you have definitely proven yourself as a player and deserve this honor. You have also proven yourself as a loyal friend and we appreciate you. You keep stroking and we will see you at the end of the board!

Forever friends,
Russ & Leslie Lankton

Steve, congratulations on your induction into the California Hall of Fame. No one will ever forget the great people and good times you brought together at Mr. G's. Keep on PUCKIN!

Your pal,
Vern Booth



***Steve with Charlie
Detterbeck & Mina
Bischara. 2nd Place
ABC Team, Oskar's
Nov 2000***

Steve Floyd has been my good friend for more than 30 years. During those 30 years, we have played shuffleboard together as partners or walked the board against each other for many, many hours. I have watched Steve play the best of them. If they were from out of town, my money was always on Steve. They didn't beat him on his board. He literally owned the board, and not just because he owned Mr. G's.

I always loved Steve when he would tell me: "You shoot good." All the other guys would say: "You shoot good for a girl."

I know of no one who loves the game more than Steve. He is well deserving of being in the Hall of Fame. His plaque could rightfully be engraved:

*I will play any man from any land
Any amount they want to count
That is the Steve Floyd I know, and I know him well.*

One of your biggest fans!
Robbi Gann

Steve,

I didn't get to know you very well because we were both running tournaments in the 90's. However, you did come up to a couple of tourneys at Blinky's in Santa Clara and we played against each other once or twice. I found that you were a very good player and well deserving of your induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Congratulations!

Rick & Kathy Thomas

I first met Steve Floyd at Mr. G's in the early 1990's. I walked in and a bunch of guys were playing shuffleboard. It was the first time I had ever seen it and they were "hoot'n & holler'n" and having a great time. After a few days, I decided to try it and after awhile started playing against Steve.

The best way to describe Steve as a shuffleboard player and as a person is – Heart, miles and miles of heart. It didn't matter who he was playing, he never gave up. Steve was a session player and would play anybody for any amount they wanted to play for. He has that bulldog mentality: Bring it on!

Congrats and thank you for the early years when you helped me develop my game.

Sincerely,
Dave Keithahn

Sometime in the late 80's, I attended a wedding in Orange Cove. Later, I went looking for a game at Mr. G's. Steve Floyd and Larry Newell were there and more than happy to accommodate. I was a few hundred dollars lighter when I left, but had a great time anyway. There were many good times at Mr. G's after that and Steve was always a great host, gentleman and competitor.

Congratulations Steve, on your CSHOF induction. The best always, from your friend

John McGinnis

Steve, you were and are still I am sure, a good shuffleboard player. But better than that, a real class act – no more, no less. I enjoyed knowing and playing shuffleboard with you all those years. Most of all, you smiled when we won and even laughed when we lost.

Best regards,
Troy

I would like to congratulate Steve Floyd on being inducted into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. I met Steve back in the '80's when he and Patsy opened up Mr. G's. Since they had a shuffleboard there, I told Steve he should learn to play. He asked me to show him some things about the game. I did, and Steve took to shuffleboard like a duck to water. After we went to a couple of tournaments he was hooked. Over the next few years, you could always find action at Mr. G's – however, it wasn't always easy. I want to thank Steve for always being there, my friend and my partner. My heartfelt thoughts are with him and I wish him the best.

Jim McDonald