



## THE CALIFORNIA SHUFFLEBOARD HALL OF FAME

Induction Ceremony Honoring

**Joe Muniz**

Presented at

**Downey Elks Lodge 2020**

Downey, California

**September 5, 2015**

## JOE MUNIZ



Joe was born in Colorado in 1939. He claimed to be so poor that he and his brother had to share a pair of shoes. Daughter Lisa doesn't quite believe that, but understands that Joe always wanted his children to be grateful with what they had. He grew up surrounded by family; aunts, uncles, cousins, and more. Family was always number one with him. Lisa

remembers taking many trips to visit relatives in Colorado, Wyoming and Marysville.

Joe wanted to be a police officer, but lacked the height requirements needed in previous eras. Instead, he changed paths and became a cabinet maker and carpenter, working his way up to become an owner at Taylor Brothers Stair Company. Lisa says that he made the most beautiful oak staircases and had many stories to tell of celebrities he met while installing them in their homes.

Joe was married to Marvel, the love of his life, for 46 years. They had two daughters, Lisa and Jodee. Lisa says of her dad: "He taught me to care and love people. He taught me to step in and help others. He taught me to hold my head up and never do anything that I couldn't be proud of. He taught me RESPECT. He taught me to laugh and be silly. He taught me to always do the right thing. He taught me to hold fast to family."

Joe loved horse racing and worked part time at Los Alamitos, Santa Anita and Hollywood Park. He also enjoyed golfing, fishing in Alaska and Loreto, and gambling. He made many trips to Las Vegas.

Joe also loved shuffleboard. He started playing in the 1960's, but took some time out for family when his daughters were young. He became a pro player and one of his greatest accomplishments was the Pacific Coast Shuffleboard Association, which he started along with Karl Spickelmier and Paul Weber. He had a vision to elevate the sport to the level of big poker and billiards tournaments in Vegas and they created the largest tournament in the U.S. and Canada. It became a family affair with everyone chipping in to help make it a success.

Besides the extravaganzas, Joe promoted countless smaller tournaments and also fundraisers for fellow shuffleboard players, including Billy Chiles' family and for Al and Von Stewart. In the February 1991 Board Talk, George Wilber, in a column discussing the previous year and the future of shuffleboard, said: "Joe Muniz, Paul Weber, Karl Spickelmier and Lisa Taylor – They've done more, with the help of others involved in the PCSA than hold their annual tournaments in Vegas. They've reached out and helped others in need with several shuffleboard benefits. Ask those on the receiving end who makes The World of Shuffleboard so special."

Joe didn't just promote the game, as a pro player he played it very well. During the 1980's he was listed in the Board Talk as one of the top 10 players in the Pacific Division. Joe's forte was Open

Doubles events where he cashed in with numerous partners such as; Karl Spickelmier, John McGinnis, John McDermott, Darroll Nelson and daughter Lisa (Dixie Belle Sweethearts' Tournament, 1995). However, he was most formidable when teamed with Billy Maxwell. Together, they won or placed in tournaments all over the West Coast. Billy claims that Joe was usually the one to make the clutch lag or shot to close out a game.

Joe suffered a stroke in late 2013. As Lisa recalled in her father's eulogy: "When Dad had his stroke, we never left his side...He had many visitors-friends and family and he was surrounded – as he was his whole life – with love and friendship."



Family



Marvel and Joe



## TRIBUTES

Joe started playing shuffleboard in the mid 1950's and became one of the most dominant players in all of Southern California and throughout the state. He played with and against the best of players including players like, Billy Childs, Al Stewart, Tommy Workman, Bill Maxwell, Troy Tolbert, Don Cox, Karl Spicklemier, Leroy Ledford, Ted Zariphes, Bob Hunt, Freddy Thuman, Hal Perry, Nick Chaffin, Chris Danke and many others. He promoted Shuffleboard in Southern California throughout the 80s and 90s and became the first trail blazer for the first successful large tournaments. Along with two other California hall **of famers, Paul Weber and Karl Spicklemier, Joe** played a major role in promoting for several years the Extravaganza tournaments in Las Vegas. He also competed in his tournaments, winning the pro doubles with his long-time partner Bill Maxwell. They won it against two of the best, Bill and Billy Melton. He also played a big role in forming the Pacific Coast Shuffleboard Assoc. (PCSA).

After the tournaments discontinued, Joe continued to promote and support many local tournaments. He continued his winning ways well into the 21st century, winning or placing in several tournaments. Joe is a great example of the three things we look for when considering to be a candidate for the state hall of fame. He was a great player, promoter and supporter of our sport.

Welcome to THE CALIFORNIA HALL OF FAME.

Jim Martin

I just wanted to say a few words about Joe Muniz. I knew him well and he was such a sweetheart. There wasn't anything he wouldn't do for anyone if he could and he will be sorely missed.

Connie Kerrell

Joe and I were playing at the rosewood pub one evening when I first started playing. Joe was whoopin up on me pretty good and after a few games he looked at me and said Grant don't quit your day job. "Well as a matter of fact I had just quit my job earlier that day to come to Oskars tournament that weekend" when I told Joe he laughed and said shit son we've got a lot of work to do! We both had a good laugh at that and started a good friendship.

Grant Watson

I support Joe Muniz's induction into the CSHF. I knew Joe for many years and he is very deserving of this honor.

Rich "Bubba" Warren



Joe and Vern

Well deserved my Friend. Long overdue. Let's play one more round, I'll wax the board while you get your weights.

Vern Booth



Joe, Rick and Doug 9

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Dudley, Billy, Karl and Joe

When I first moved to Bellflower , I was playing shuffleboard at Oskars one day and Joe came in. We played a game and he said: "Let's take a ride, we will be right back." Well, six or seven bars later we came back, but I didn't know until half way through the journey that I was being used as, I guess you would say, an enforcer. Go Joe! He would buy me a beer and disappear. When he came back, he would say: " Let's go!" I never got to finish my beer and we were off to next bar. After a few of them I said: " What the hell is going on?" He laughed and told me he was collecting debts and was telling peeps that I was going to kick their ass if they didn't pay up. That was Joe!

I miss him very much !

Jeff Delphia



Player, promoter, supporter, or fundraiser-take your pick. Joe was a Hall of Famer in all of these categories.

Though sometimes at odds with the CSHOF, it was mainly about the forgotten players of the past. Joe did not want to put himself (and some others), ahead of these deserving people that had been passed over. Knowing how he felt and basically agreeing with him, I was a little conflicted about his induction, but ultimately decided it was another chance to honor and remember my good friend.

Joe must have started playing in the late 50's or early 60's and I know he actually quit playing for a number of years while Lisa and Jodee were growing up. I'm not sure how long he'd been back playing when I met him in '84, but I really liked his style, both in and out of the shuffleboard scene, and we became fast friends. I always felt most people underestimated Joe as a player but now I think that's because he wanted it that way-for the "action", and with Joe it was all about action. Someone once said the best way to get action was to "piss 'em off" and Joe certainly had that down to a science. He could get under someone's skin, get them to play, take their money, and they'd be back the next week for more. I saw it happen countless times.

But having played together as partners, I can tell you that Joe was afraid of nobody. It was Joe who usually made the clutch lag or shot to close out a game and he was able to bring out the best in me as well. What more could you ask of a partner? Joe was one of the great characters of the game and so much more than just a shuffleboard player. He is dearly missed and I know we'd all be having a lot more fun if he was here today.

Billy Maxwell



Joe and Billy

Most of my memories of Joe are of him and Billy Maxwell playing Open Doubles in various tournaments in Northern and Southern California and Las Vegas. They were the very definition of a team, not only playing extremely well together, but always showing a great deal of respect for each other. Many other pro teams came and went over the years, but Joe and Billy remained a force to be reckoned with.

Joe, with help from the PCSA, was an amazing promoter, facilitator and visionary in the creation of what was then the biggest shuffleboard tournaments ever. He was also a generous man and donated time and money to benefit tournaments for shufflers who had fallen on hard times.

Joe is a legend in the game and deserving of this honor.

Kathy Thomas



Dudley, Billy, Ted and Joe

What a great day Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup> is for the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame for recognizing a true hero in our sport.

Joe Muniz is a real credit to the game of shuffleboard. I have only a few memories of being blessed from being around him, but Joe Muniz made a very positive impression to me at a very early time of my shuffleboard career. Joe is a true gentleman, a great competitor, and knows everything about shuffleboard, including how to play the game, and how to run a tournament, and how to promote the game with great integrity. I just wish that I had more opportunities to be around him at his tournaments and learn from his example and being. No one ever carried himself better or is

more gracious in this game of shuffleboard, win or lose or draw.

No one is more respected by all the players I know. No one has a bigger or a better heart in our game and always gave it his all.

Congratulations, Joe Muniz on this great honor given to you. May God Bless you and love you as you have loved Shuffleboard.

Shuffleboard has loved your dearly and I thank you for your service to this game. I wish I could have been present on your great day of honor, and I am so very happy for you. I am 100% sure Glen Davidson, Sam Summers, Earl Kelly and others that have pasted on are smiling for your well-deserved honor today, also. The California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame just jumped up in value today, and I congratulate them for the wisdom in honoring and inducting you. You bring world class to this game and I love this about you most, Joe Muniz! Joe, you are the best this game offers, and this is a Fabulous day for the World of Shuffleboard!

Sincerely, Sam Sweatt



Don, Joe, Charlie and Nick



Joe and Gloria



Unknown, Joe and Chris D.

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