



## MELVIN BALLARD

The Rockford Sportsmen's Golf Assn. proudly invites all amateur golfers to participate in the ever growing annual Melvin Ballard Memorial Amateur Open Golf Tournament which was founded in 1969 in memory of a fine young golfer.

Melvin Ballard, 23, a former Rockford barber, an amateur golfer, and member of R.S.G.A., died from wounds inflicted by enemy fire in combat near Saigon, Vietnam.

Melvin Ballard was considered by his colleagues as professional material and proved his aptness by winning the 1966 Pro-Am Tournament at Macktown Golf Course.

He was a sportsman and friend to all whom he met and has legends in the Rockford area as hitting long, low, slow rising drives and leaving the club house birdieing and eagleing holes as if birdies were his par.

We are proud to keep the memory of Melvin Ballard alive.

### **Rockford Sportsmen's Golf Association Scholarship Program**

The R.S.G.A. has established a Scholarship Program for college bound youth in order to help more students reach their potential through higher education.

The selection of recipients of partial scholarships is determined by the R.S.G.A. Scholarship Committee each year.

Several criteria are used in the selection of scholarship awards. Financial need is one of our primary considerations, along with the student's academic standing, motivation and desire for a higher education.

Referrals of graduating seniors are made by high school counselors, parents, school administrators, churches, students themselves, and community organizations, such as TAUS and National Council of Negro Women.

Financing of the scholarships is raised through yearly events held by the R.S.G.A. and donations made by individuals interested in the program.

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The R.S.G.A. was founded in 1948 by a group of black golfers who felt the need to address a recreational deficiency in the community.

The organization has one major project of which we are very proud. The YOUTH PROGRAM was initiated in 1968. This program works on the "Big Brother" concept. Members "adopt" a youngster and teach him or her the game of golf. Along with golf, they are taught good sportsmanship, the importance of rules, to respect the rights and property of others, and equally as important, an opportunity to learn more about themselves and their capabilities. The Association provides all the equipment for this YOUTH PROGRAM.

We have established a fund and purchased a building for indoor classes, meetings, and hopefully in the near future will add other sports to our program, with the same "Big Brother" concept. This fund is supplemented totally by members' dues, contributions, small fund raisers, etc.

In the past, proceeds from the Tournament have gone to the Sickle Cell Foundations, and to finance our YOUTH PROGRAM.