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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rhode Island Golf Hall of Fame Announces 2015 Inductees

(PROVIDENCE, R.I.) – The Rhode Island Golf Hall of Fame will honor C. Charles Blanchard, Helen Waterhouse Palmer, Michael Bobel, Joseph Prisco, Thomas Drennan and James ‘JT’ Tanner at the annual dinner of the Rhode Island Golf Association on Tuesday, December 1, at Kirkbrae Country Club in Lincoln, R.I.

The Hall of Fame was created in the late 1990s to recognize people from the Rhode Island golf community who have made significant contributions to the game of golf. The first induction took place in 2001, with subsequent inductions taking place every two to four years. Forty-two people have been honored prior to 2015.

C. Charles Blanchard, head golf coach at Bryant University, has won the RIGA Amateur Championship twice; the Stroke Play four times; the Mid-Amateur seven times; the Burke Championship five times; the Four-Ball Championship twice and Player of the Year seven times. He has also participated in several regional and national championships, including the USGA Amateur, Mid-Amateur and State Team Championships. In 2002 he completed a championship sweep, winning all five RIGA major championships during the season.

Helen Waterhouse Palmer won the RIWGA Women’s Amateur Championship five times between 1932 and 1939. She is the youngest Rhode Island State Champion ever, winning the event in 1932 at 14 years-of-age. She married and moved to Ohio where she won the Columbus Country Club Championship 18 times between 1946 and 1965. She passed away in 1998.

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Michael Bobel came out of the caddie ranks in the 1920s to become a champion golfer and a well-respected golf professional. As a young golfer, he won the 1925 RIGA Caddie Championship and the 1926 RIGA Junior Championship. In 1933 he won the RIGA Amateur Championship over Charles B. Round. He turned pro and won the 1933 and 1934 Rhode Island Open Championships. Michael's greatest achievement as a teacher was guiding his daughter, Betty June Bobel Stapleton, to five RIWGA Championships between 1954 and 1962. He served as a club pro and teaching pro for over 50 years, passing away in January of 1983.

Joseph Prisco of Providence College served as the head golf coach from 1948 to 2012. From 1965 on, his teams compiled a 389-108-1 record. Throughout his coaching career, his teams qualified eight times for the NCAA Tournament. Prisco also served on numerous committees, including the District 1 NCAA selection committee and the NCAA All-American selection committee. He was inducted into the Golf Coaches Hall of Fame in 1987.

Thomas Drennan began coaching golf at the University of Rhode Island in 1988. Drennan served as URI head coach for 22 years. Drennan is responsible for building the URI golf program into the best in the Northeast. While building up the URI program, he also became one of the leading voices nationally for college golf. Drennan's time with URI, combined with his national recognition in college golf lead him to be inducted into the Golf Coaches Hall of Fame in 2008.

James 'JT' Tanner is being awarded the Hall of Fame's Distinguished Service Award. He has served the members of Pawtucket Country Club since 1952, beginning as a caddie and earning the title of caddie master. He treated generations of caddies with kindness and respect while instilling important life lessons in creating a strong work ethic, honesty, and reliability. He was inducted into the national Caddie Hall of Fame in 2009. A tournament in his honor is held each year to benefit the Burke Scholarship Fund.

Ticket information may be found at www.rigalinks.org or by calling the Rhode Island Golf Association at 401-272-1350.

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