For Immediate Release

RE:  Zoar Memorial Championship and Honoree

(Zoar, OH)  The sixth annual Zoar Memorial Championship is slated for Saturday and Sunday May 25th and 26th at Zoar Golf Club.  The tournament is a 36 hole medal play event for the best amateurs from Ohio and surrounding states.  There is also a senior division for those over 50 years of age.

Also, the event takes the opportunity to honor and remember players from past years of tournament competition in the region.  The 2019 Honoree is John Colombo of Roswell, Ohio.

John, 80, is a lifelong resident of Tuscarawas County and was a regular winner in the Tuscarawas District Golf Association tournaments.  His sons:  John, Craig and Chris all inherited his passion for the game.  His first win came when he was 15 years old.  He started to play golf when he worked at the "old Country Club", now Union CC, when it was just 9 holes.  He said he mowed, raked bunkers, caddied and played on Mondays.

He remembered the TDGA as a very good and well run organization by Warner Kopp.  Kopp was the recipient of the 2018  "IN MEMORY recognition.  The organization hosted tournaments at Sugarcreek, Wilkshire, Green Valley, Big Bend, Hickory Flatts, River Greens, Union CC and Zoar GC.

Colombo  was a 4 sport letterman at Midvale High School.  There was no golf team back then so he enjoyed track, baseball, football and basketball.  Colombo has the distinction of making the first basket ever in a state tournament in the new St. John's Arena at Ohio State.  Midvale lost to eventual state champion: Ayersville.

This year's "In Memory" recognition is Jack Matchett, Colombo's longtime golf partner who passed away ten years ago.  Colombo said he was a fun-loving, joke telling player that everyone enjoyed in their 4-some.  "I am pleased that our names will be on the board next to each other," said Colombo. "I miss him every day."

The first round of The Zoar Memorial is Saturday.  Ian Hardesty is the open division defending champion.  Brad Baker won the Senior Division the past 2 years.

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