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For immediate release

Free 6-Week Golf Program for Veterans to Begin April 25 at Oakwood

MILWAUKEE (April 20, 2017) – Milwaukee County Parks invites local military Veterans to participate in the free, six-week PGA Helping Our Patriots Everywhere golf program. The program begins with a clinic April 25, from 2–4 p.m., at Oakwood Park, and continues with instruction every Tuesday through June 6. The golf course is located at 3600 W. Oakwood Road.

In its second year, the HOPE program is offered to area Veterans through the partnership of PGA America and Milwaukee County Parks. In 2016, local PGA Professionals provided instruction on the game and the use of adaptive equipment, when needed, to 30 Veterans of all abilities.

“I’m proud that Milwaukee County is taking part in the HOPE golf program to enhance the rehabilitation and assimilation back into civilian life of our Veterans,” said County Executive Chris Abele. “This is a small gesture of thanks to those we owe so much.”

At the introductory Down Range Clinic, one Paramobile will be available so that people who use wheelchairs will be able to stand to golf. Based on the needs determined at the introductory clinic, additional Paramobiles will be ordered for the six-week program. The specialized golf cars are being made available through the Stand Up & Play Foundation, with local support from Ellenbecker Investment Group.

The HOPE program, however, is about more than learning golf skills. While the lifetime sport provides an outlet for physical activity and competition, it also offers social opportunities and comradery on and off the course.

Parks Director John Dargle, Jr., a former commissioned officer in the U.S. Army, said, “I am pleased to be in a position to support our Veterans by providing them the opportunity to learn to play golf for free. Giving our military men and women this opportunity is a simple demonstration of gratitude for their service and sacrifice in defending our freedom.”



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Program participants will meet every week at the golf course practice area for instruction. The program also includes play on the course.

The HOPE golf program is currently available in 38 states, with nearly 3,500 Veterans participating. Details on the program are available at <https://pgareach.com/military>.

Registration is suggested. Veterans may register for the program by contacting Chet Hendrickson at (414) 257-4856 or chet.hendrickson@milwaukeecountywi.gov.

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