



PRESS RELEASE

CasaBlanca Head Professional/former Marine Mary Ochs spearheading Golf Fore Life tournament Jan. 16

CasaBlanca Head Professional Mary Ochs is an admitted small-town girl who fell in love with Mesquite after living in a Minnesota town with less than 100 people. A resident of Mesquite for the past 8 ½ years, she is living a dream.



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Whether it be creating and running golf tournaments such as the Patriot's Day Charity tournament Sept. 7; or the Jan. 16 Golf Fore Life event benefiting the Mesquite Cancer Help Society at the CasaBlanca Golf Course, the talented and energetic former U.S. Marine cannot imagine living anywhere else.

"I found a home-away-from-home when I moved here," said the soft-spoken Ochs whose journey brought her to Mesquite from White Bear Lake, Minn. "With seven golf courses only minutes from one another, Mesquite is a paradise for golf. It presents a wonderful chance to enjoy a small town with incredible people. You have an identity in Mesquite whereas you can get lost in a bigger city.

"I had no problem adjusting to Mesquite. Some people don't realize how much there is to do here. The mountains here are beautiful, and you can hike or go four-wheeling."

Ochs came to Mesquite to retire with no idea whatsoever of becoming a teaching professional. After meeting some key people in the community, time intended for relaxation was replaced with a full-time gig running the beverage cart at the Palms Golf Course. When she discovered the beauty of golf mixed with the endless friendships, she joined the Ladies Professional Golf Association, and the rest is history.

"I have met so many wonderful people on the golf course," said Ochs, who joined the U.S. Marines on a dare as teenager serving from 1977-85. "In fact, many new friendships are formed when complete strangers end up in the same foursome during a game of golf."

Mesquite, which has a winter population of about 30,000, is about as giving as any city in the state. Proof of that came considering that with only two weeks to prepare, Ochs orchestrated the Patriots Day tournament Sept. 7 at the CasaBlanca.

A full field of 88 entries gathered to raise \$1,200 for post educational scholarships for the families whose loved ones have been killed or disabled while serving the United States.

An estimated 80 percent of the field was from Mesquite. "Mesquite comes together when the need arises," said Ochs. "We see that time and time again

especially in charity golf tournaments. We raised \$3,500 in last year's Golf Fore Life tournament, and I'm anticipating a bigger amount this year."

Ochs chose the Mesquite Cancer Helps group saying that 100 percent of the funds raised are used to provide transportation, medication or treatment for residents dealing directly or indirectly with cancer.

"Every one of us has been affected by cancer," said Ochs. "I lost my mom to cancer, so it's important to me that we help an organization where 100 percent of the funds go directly to those battling cancer in one form or another." It's not hard finding co-workers who admire the Ochs' spunk and dedication.

"Mary is an incredible story especially considering that she started out as a beverage cart attendant at the Palms before earning her LPGA designation," said Ann Sunstrum, the director of sales for Black Gaming. "She discovered a real interest in the game of golf and worked very hard to earn her designation – and that's not easy to do. It requires countless hours of study and schooling.

"Mary is a tireless worker, and she will tackle just about anything. Her enthusiasm is unbelievable."

Those interested in playing in the Golf Fore Life tournament can call 888-711-4653, ext. 22. The cost is \$65 per person and is a four-person scramble format. Tee sign sponsorships are also available for \$100.

The weekend will also include the annual Mesquite Motor Mania car show at various locations including the CasaBlanca Resort, Eureka, Virgin River and Oasis hotel casinos; along with the Smokin' Big Chili Challenge in the Event Center of the CasaBlanca Resort.

CAPTION: CasaBlanca Head Professional Mary Ochs, shown speaking to the field of entrants for the Patriots Day tournament Sept. 7, is spearheading the Golf Fore Life tournament scheduled Sunday, Jan. 16 at the CasaBlanca Golf Course. The event will benefit the Mesquite Cancer Help Society.

.....i really don't have any goal..because of the new way I'm doing it..opening up the field...as far as prized..i'd be thrilled if we got 2,000 the way the conomy is now...just basing that on the state of the econ..will do a bunch of raffle prizes....muligans..should rasei some good ome

.....I'm a teaching professional..work at the casa Blanca....been playing golf a bout 8 years.

.....course..it's very impressive..from one ned of townto the rother you can get to any golf oxurse..where else can you do it.....you can play golf all year round..the casinos in the area..you don't.....

.....mesquite..it's much more affordable.....right down tot eh golf..too.....

.....darrell Edwards....