



Texas Chess Association
A 501(c)(3) Tax-Exempt Organization
P.O. Box 151804, Ft. Worth, TX 76108

Official Press Release
For all Texas Chess Organizations and Publications

Six Texans Excel at Armed Forces Championship

Fricks and Hollingsworth Win Top Texas Titles

By Victor Yaward, Ace Chess Reporter for Texas Knights

(Hillsboro, Texas, 9/30/2018) During the last weekend of September, 18 chess-playing veterans representing four of the current five branches of service converged at the Hill College Library for the 2018



Texas Armed Forces and Military Veterans Open Chess Championships. Five of them are chess experts with extensive military chess experience. The group included Active Duty, retirees, honorably discharged veterans, officers, noncommissioned officers, lower ranking enlisted, women, and GI Bill students. They came from throughout Texas and five other states, including three from Oklahoma. Six Texans excelled in this Veterans championship. In addition, one player was honored with the “National Chess Master Bill Wall Texas Legacy Award” for exemplary and dedicated service.

During the opening of the Veterans Dinner, Clarese Roberts sang the National Anthem beautifully. No one took a knee and all saluted as she honored our Nation’s flag and veterans with her lyrics. Photo by Sheryl McBroom.

Upon their arrival at Hill College, in Hillsboro, Texas, the veterans quickly realized this was not just any ordinary tournament. Many generous donors and sponsors covered their entrance fees. All participants received pocket chess sets from Bay Area Chess. Internet Chess Club donated one-year memberships to all. Politicians, college officials and community leaders were on hand to greet the players at the opening ceremonies. A long-distance Skype call came in from Army Chess Veteran Mike Donovan wishing the best for everyone. Lunch was provided for all players and staff free of charge. The college’s “Texas Heritage Museum” (normally closed on Saturdays) was opened especially for all chess playing veterans. They attended a Veterans Dinner, listened to great speakers, and used “one-minute-intros” to share their stories. The capstone event was awarding the “National Chess Master Bill Wall Texas Legacy Award” to Navy Veteran and TCA President Tom Crane for his many years of exemplary service.

The 2018 Texas Armed Forces and Military Veterans Open Chess Championships were made possible by many generous donors and sponsors. No players paid any entrance fee and lunches were provided.

Point of Contact: Chief Organizer Jim Hollingsworth at armychess@aol.com



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Charles Fricks, from Longview, was top scorer for all Texans with 2.5/4 points. He achieved a .500 score against three experts including an impressive Round One victory over Oklahoma Armed Forces Champion Neal Naputo.

Sheryl McBroom took the photo on the right showing Chief Organizer Jim Hollingsworth (red jacket) presenting the award and title of Texas Military Veterans Champion to Charles Fricks.



Chief Organizer Jim Hollingsworth, from North Richland Hills, was crowned Texas Armed Forces Chess Champion. "I was lucky." Said Hollingsworth. "Last year's Champion moved to California. Mike Donovan, from Austin, and I have been friends and rivals since we served in Korea 30 years ago. But he is in Europe working on a nuclear reactor. We were expecting the 2009 Army Champion to play, but he didn't show. The old saying 'half of success is showing up' certainly applies for 2018. In any case, I am honored to have this title. I honestly considered myself a longshot."

Adjutant and Air Force Retiree Dale Chaney (left in the above photo) presents the Texas Armed Forces Champion title and award to Jim Hollingsworth (right). Photo by Sheryl McBroom.

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Chief Tournament Director Chris Wood (left) and Chief Organizer Jim Hollingsworth (right) award the title of Texas Armed Forces Navy Champion to Tom Crane (center). Photo by Sheryl McBroom

Navy Veteran Tom Crane won the title of Texas Armed Forces Navy Champion. This is his second title this year. In March he was crowned Fort Worth Veterans Champion in a Veterans chess championship held at the Fort Worth Outpatient Clinic. Tom has been extremely active in the Texas chess scene since at least 2001. He is one of the highly sought tournament directors in the state. At the Veterans Dinner he was also awarded the “National Chess Master Bill Wall Texas Legacy Award” for his many years of exemplary service. He is President of the Tarrant County Chess Club and most recently was elected President of the Texas Chess Association (TCA).

National Chess Master Bill Wall Texas Legacy Award presentation at the Veterans Dinner.



Jim Hollingsworth (left) looks on as Tom Crane receives the award from Carmen Chairez, the 2017 award recipient. Photo by Sheryl McBroom.

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Air Force/Marines Retiree Clarese Roberts (left in the photo) was crowned Texas Armed Forces Women's Champion by Jim Hollingsworth (right), Chief Organizer. She volunteers regularly at the Fort Worth Out Patient Clinic and is one of the Fort Worth Veterans Chess Club's most active members. Photo by Sheryl McBroom.



Sheryl McBroom (left in the above photo) is awarded the title of Texas Armed Forces Student Champion by Chief Organizer Jim Hollingsworth (right). Photo by Clarese Roberts.

Air Force Veteran Sheryl McBroom, an active Fort Worth Veterans Chess Club member, was crowned Texas Armed Forces Student Champion. She is a photography major at the University of Texas at Arlington. During her downtime she honed her skills by taking over 1,000 professional looking photos. Some of her photos are used in this article and will be used in her portfolio.

Sheryl and her camera are becoming regular visitors at Texas tournaments. More and more of her photos are making their way to the TCA Facebook page.

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Jedwayne Bowser (left), from Grand Prairie and playing in his first rated tournament, won the Texas Armed Forces Unrated Chess Champion title. Chief Organizer Jim Hollingsworth (right) presents the award and title. Photo by Sheryl McBroom.

Senior Tournament Director Chris Wood directed this 18-player combined championship. Air Force Veteran Dale Chaney served as Adjutant and oversaw all logistics, including lodging, food and special awards. Jim Hollingsworth served as Chief Organizer and Fund Raiser. "We are very grateful to American Legion Post 379 (Bedford, Texas), the Arlington Chess Club, Bay Area Chess, CalChess, the Georgia Chess Association, the Oklahoma Chess Association, the City of Hillsboro, Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce, Hill College staff, Internet Chess Club, the Tarrant County Chess Club, and the Texas Heritage Museum staff for all their support." Said Hollingsworth. "State Senator Brian Birdwell's visit was especially uplifting, as he is one of us (retired military)." Hollingsworth added, "We are especially grateful to Harmon Throneberry, Tim Welch, Tom Crane, Jeff French, Eddie Rios, Lois Wall, Jim Stallings and so many others who donated and made all this possible."



Bottom left photo by Sheri Hembrick.



Bottom right photo by Sheryl McBroom.

More special military championships like this are being planned. Negotiations are underway to bring the US Armed Forces Open Chess Championship to Texas in 2021. More information about the 2018 Texas Armed Forces and Military Veterans Open Chess Championships is available at: <https://texaschess.org>

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First Row (seated from left to right): Air Force Veteran Bret Lynn; Texas Armed Forces Women's Champion Clarese Roberts; Oklahoma Armed Forces and Army Champion Neil Naputo; Army Veteran Carmen Chairez; Chief Organizer and Texas Armed Forces Champion Jim Hollingsworth. Second Row (seated from left to right): Texas Military Veterans Champion Charles Fricks; Games Judge Jeffrey Spyrison; Texas Armed Forces Student Champion Sheryl McBroom; the Adjutant, Air Force Veteran Dale Chaney. Third Row (standing from left to right): Chief Tournament Director and Champion Texas Hold-um Player Chris Wood; Army Veteran Leon Toliver; Chess Expert and Texas Legacy Champion Ron Farrar; Georgia Armed Forces Chess Champion, Retiree Champion and Chess Expert David Hater. Third Row (seated from left to right): Army Veteran Troy Gillispie; Chess Expert and Marines Champion John Ferrell. Fourth Row (standing left to right): Cal Chess Armed Forces and Life Member Champion Tom Boyd; Texas Chess Association President and Texas Armed Forces Navy Champion Tom Crane; Air Force Champion Jimmy Nazario; Texas Armed Forces Unrated Champion Jedwayne Bowser.

Photo by Joe Shaughnessy.

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