

Nomination Cover Sheet  
El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame  
(effective date: January 16, 2008)

Name of Presenter: PETE SOLIS / GARY BARTON

Date of Presentation: 4-19-21

Home Address: 10732 ALDAMA

Home Phone: (915) 820-7506

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Business Address: 1434 LOMALAND

Business Phone: (915) 599-8666

Business Fax: (915) 599-8697

Name of Nominee: TERRY (PRO) JENNINGS

Category Being Nominated In: POSTHUMOUS

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

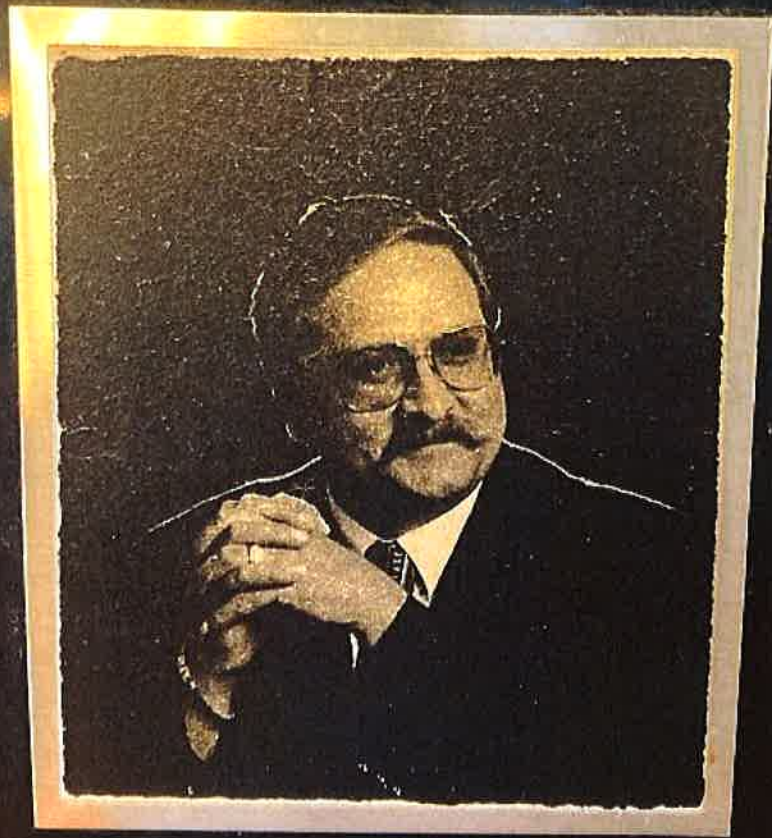
Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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TERRY JENNINGS

1998

# Sports

## Vista Hills pro Jennings shared love of golf

**Bret Bloomquist**

El Paso Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK — TEXAS

Terry Jennings' big joy in life came in sharing his love of golf with with youths and teaching them the game.

For 40 years, almost his entire professional life, he did that at Vista Hills Golf Course as the head pro.

Jennings passed away Friday at the age of 68 after an eight-month battle with cancer, almost a year to the day after Vista Hills closed.

"Terry loved everybody, especially young golfers," his friend Gary Barton said. "If a kid showed up at Vista Hills, he didn't have to pay for range balls. He helped my son so much, they worked together for four years."

"Terry would do anything for young golfers."

Barton's son, Jeffery is now the director of instruction at Preston Trail Golf Course in the Metroplex.

"He was a mentor, another father figure for me," Jeffery Barton said of Jen-

nings. "He's the reason I'm in the golf business, he gave me a passion at an early age. He taught me the game, he gave me my first job."

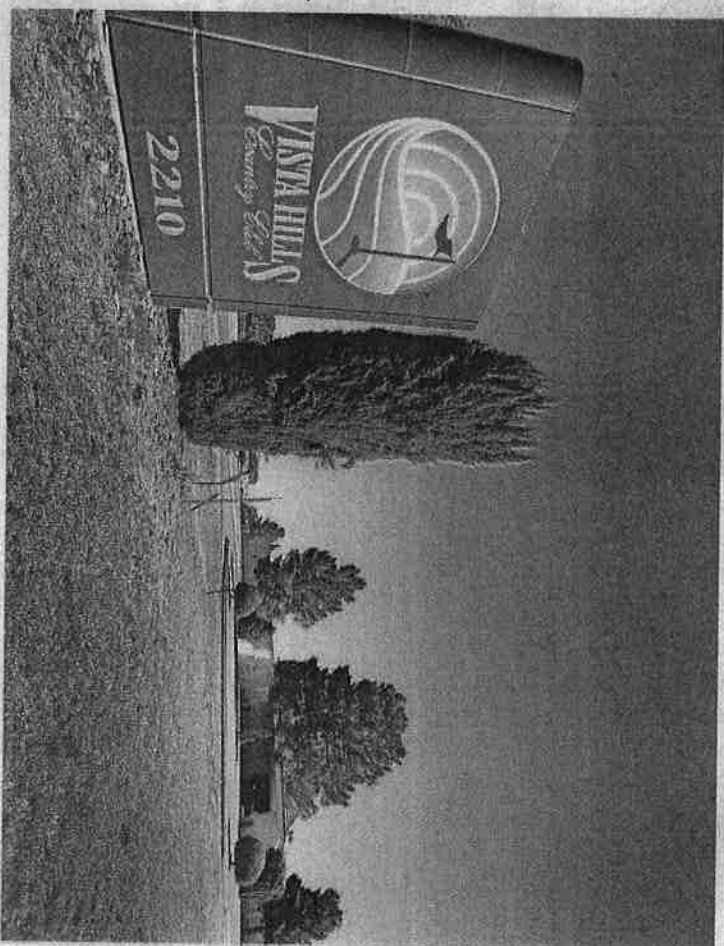
There were 10 or 12 of us there at Vista Hills (in the late 1990s), six or seven of us went on to play college golf. He gave us the run of the place. I'm just heart-broken."

Jennings was a two-time All-American golfer himself at New Mexico State in the mid-1970s, then took at job as an assistant pro at Vista Hills. After one year there he went to Horizon Golf Course for a year, then was back at Vista Hills in 1980 as head pro. He stayed there until it closed.

"He was an amazing man," said his friend Pete Solis. "He was always helping kids, that's what he loved doing. Everybody who knew him loved him. He was always supporting the high school teams."

*Bret Bloomquist can be reached at 915-546-6359.*

*bbloomquist@elpasotimes.com; @Bretbloomquist on Twitter.*



Vista Hills Country Club sits vacant at 2210 Trawood Dr. in El Paso.

BRIANA SANCHEZ/EL PASO TIMES

Terry Ray Jennings was born on July 17, 1951 to Ed Jennings and Dorothy Jennings in Bonne Terre, Missouri. Terry's father Ed, work in maintenance on the NMSU golf course while Terry was growing up. In going with his father to work Terry picked up the game of golf and started taking lessons. At the age of 11 he made his first hole-in -one at the NMSU golf course on the par 3 #8. In 1965 at the age of 13 Terry played in the Second Annual State University Golf Association Invitational Tournament, he along with one other 13-year-old were the youngest entries of the tournament.

Terry attended Goddard High school where he was his teams only medalist with a round of 74 (1966). In College Terry was Given the name "Field Mouse" by the seniors on his team that year. He was given that nickname because "the ball scurries into the hole like a mouse when he hits it". Terry won a special 36-hole qualifying round to be the 5<sup>th</sup> individual entry his freshman year on the New Mexico State University Golf Team, to play at the NCAA Golf Championship. Terry fired a four under par 209 over playing 54 holes and was the individual champion winning the intercollegiate tile his Sophomore year in Anthony. His 209 total, was the 3<sup>rd</sup> best total in the history of the tournament at that time. Terry Finished his sophomore season with the third best per round average on the team (75.9 strokes) and played 26 rounds of tournament golf.

In 1972, Terry's Junior year, he shot a 214 total over playing 54 holes winning his 2<sup>nd</sup> straight tournament in 3 weeks. In 1972 Terry had been named to the 1972 Honorable Mention All American list. Terry then goes on to capture the New Mexico Amateur Golf Championship in Albuquerque, New Mexico on August 6,1972.

In 1973 Terry Shoots a curse record of 64 at the Men's State Amateur Golf Championship at Rio Rancho Country Club. August 6, 1973 Terry win his 2<sup>nd</sup> State Amateur Title at Rio Rancho.

Terry went on to graduate from NMSU. He then worked at Horizon Golf course as an assistant pro and then a pro for a couple of years.

He worked at Vista Hills as the Head Pro until it closed down in 2019. While working a at Vista Hills Terry received the Pat Gavin PGA Professional Development award in 1997. Terry Was not only a gifted and talented golfer but he was a great friend to anyone who knew him but more importantly a loving father to his two children Jaclyn Anaya and Nathan Jennings. Jaclyn was born in 1983 taking up the game up golf from her dad playing in junior lessons and tournaments and eventually playing on her high school golf team as well as two years in college. Nathan was born in 1991 taking up the game of golf as well following in his dad's footsteps. Nathan also took part in junior lesson and tournaments and played on his high school golf team.

Terry will be remembered not only for his great accomplishments in golf but also for being the giving man that he was. He always wanted the best for everyone.

Dear El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Selection Committee,

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for PGA Golf Professional Terry Jennings induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. Terry served as the Head Golf Professional at Vista Hills Country Club for over 30 years where he served the membership and grew the game of golf on El Paso's east side. Terry's passion for the game and junior development was unmatched. He and the membership at Vista Hills created a culture that was inviting to juniors and nurtured their development and growth - not only as golfers but as young men and women. Terry's influence helped countless young men and women play golf at the collegiate level.

He was certainly a mentor and coach in my life, both personally and professionally, and any success I have had as a PGA Professional has had a direct correlation to that mentorship. I miss him dearly. I hope that the selection committee will strongly consider Terry in the posthumous category in this year's class.

Sincerely,

Jeff Barton  
PGA Director of Instruction  
Preston Trail Golf Club  
17201 Preston Trail Drive  
Dallas, TX 75248

To: The El Paso Golf Hall of Fame Selection Committee  
From: Henry Felix  
Subject: Nomination of Terry Jennings  
Date: April 8, 2021

Dear Committee Members,

As a former inductee to the EP Golf Hall of fame please accept my recommendation and endorsement to select former Golf Professional at Vista Hills CC, Terry Jennings, posthumously to the El Paso Golf Hall of Fame.

My recommendation is based on 24 years of working closely and in tandem with Terry, or "Pro" as he was known to all of us at Vista Hills CC. As a former Golf Coach at Hanks HS I usually spent most afternoons at Vista Hills with the Hanks Golf team and developed an enduring relationship with Pro. Terry was a champion of youth and high school golf and was the biggest advocate of our program. Terry went out of his way to support our program and always defended and stood up for us over the years at countless meetings with club members who I am sure questioned our never ending afternoon presence at Vista Hills. He was our staunchest supporter. We had many successes at Hanks HS over the years but I doubt we would not have been able to achieve all we did had it not been for the support of "Pro".

Besides being a true champion of youth golf Terry had a distinguished Collegiate career at NMSU and local PGA area events and was highly regarded by his fellow PGA peers.

Please accept this recommendation to posthumously admit Terry Jennings to the upcoming class of inductees to the El Paso Golf Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,  
Henry Felix  
J.M. Hanks High School Golf Coach, 1984-2008  
El Paso Golf Hall of Fame Inductee 2007

## Terry Jennings (Pro)

From: Kathleen Lopez (kdsinglop@hotmail.com)

To: solispeter64@yahoo.com

Date: Thursday, April 8, 2021, 06:53 PM MDT

April 8, 2021

Dear Committee Members,

It is with great pleasure to recommend former Golf Professional at Vista Hills Country Club, Terry Jennings, posthumously, to the El Paso Golf Hall of Fame.

As a former Golf coach at Hanks High School and his associate in the Pro Shop, I witnessed his generous support and contribution to Youth and High School Golf. Terry's love and passion for golf, was never ending.

Terry was the biggest advocate for Hanks High School Golf program, as well as , other high school programs in the city. He would allow practices and golf tournaments to be played at Vista Hills on a regular basis, to include fundraising. In the Pro Shop he worked tirelessly to make sure the facility was kept up to meet the highest of standards.

Terry Jenning, was not only my colleague, golf partner, mentor, boss in the pro shop; but a wonderful friend. Please accept this recommendation to posthumously admit Terry Jennings to the upcoming class of inductees to the El Paso Golf Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Daniel Lopez  
JM Hanks High School Golf Coach  
2009-214

for the Jennings family.



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*Thursday, July 9, 2020*

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# Memories

*Terry Ray Jennings*

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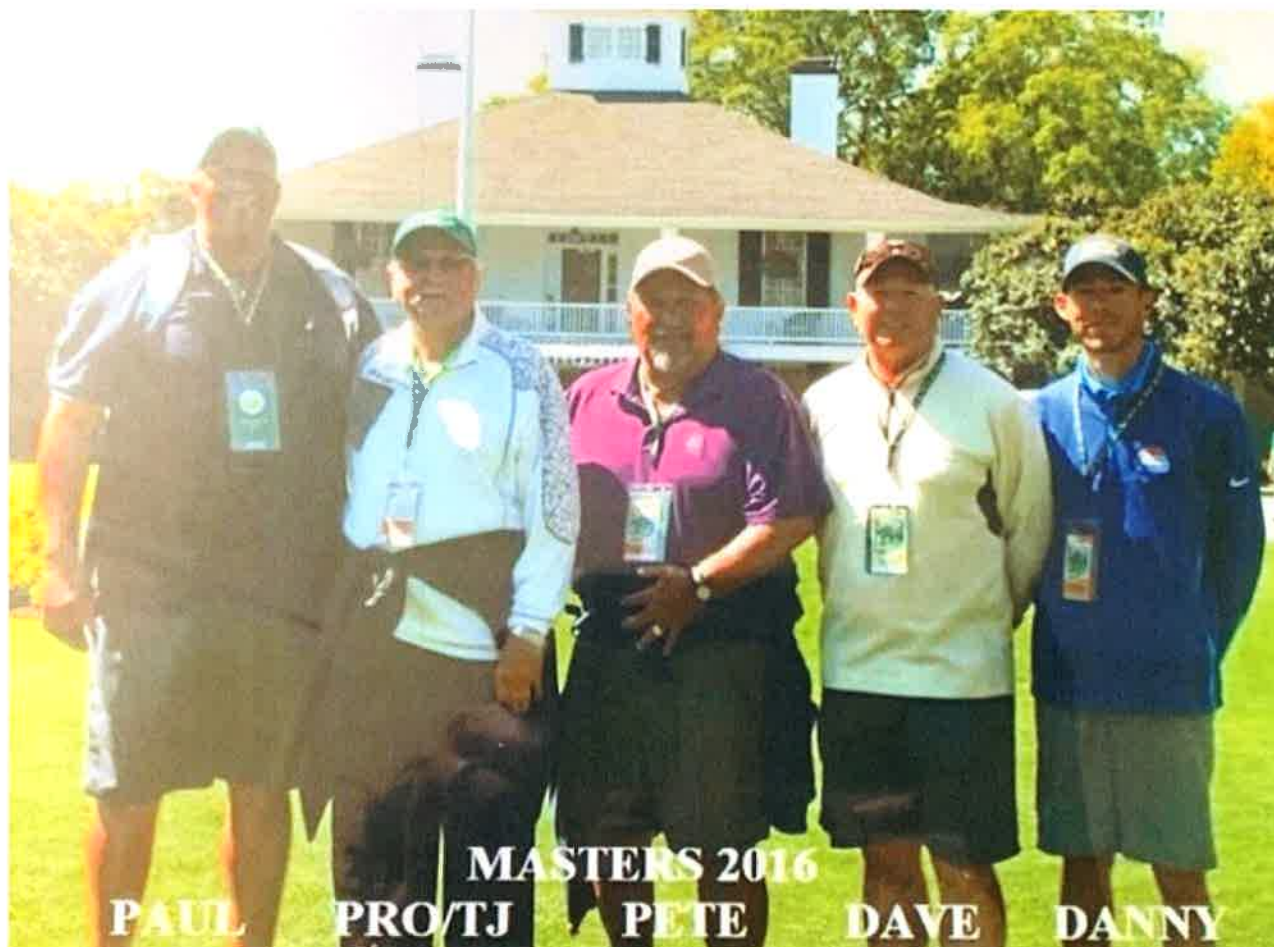
[ADD A MEMORY](#)[CEMETERY FLOWERS](#)**Paul Cross**

July 17, 2020

*Terry was a man with a heart of Gold. I will always be grateful for the kindness he always showed me from the day I met him. I learned many things from him to include patience and mediation skills just from watching him. What an awesome ambassador for the game of golf and he always had time to give a golf tip.*

*I miss having lunch and breakfast with him but I keep super memories. A remarkable man and a remarkable loss for us all.*

*RIP my friend.*

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**Robert K Bird**

July 9, 2020

*In the time that I was fortunate to know 'Pro' Terry Jennings, it became clear that he spent the majority of his time doing all that he could to facilitate others being able to experience joy. Pro did whatever he could so that others would have a good time. His contributions to young people displayed a true spirit of giving for the public good. The world needs more people like Pro.*

**James Everhart**

July 8, 2020

*Terry "Pro" gave me my first job. On the range at Vista Hills, the day before my 16th birthday talking to my dad and I, he offered me a job. I started the day after. He wasn't just my first boss, he was one of my mentors through those awkward high-school years and beyond. He grew the passion for golf in myself and countless others. It was a blessing knowing him. He will be missed, Rest in peace Pro!*

**Rick Lane**

July 7, 2020

*Terry Jennings what a special man, father and friend. Terry helped me my three boy's and even my daughter with the silly game we call golf. I thank all of the Jennings family for giving him the freedom to share his golfing abilities so the rest of us could enjoy the game. what an awesome guy he was and memories of him will last for ever. Jacqueline and Nate my condolences what a special father you have to remember for the rest of your life's GOD Bless Rick Lane*

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**Henry Felix**

July 4, 2020

*Terry was always just "Pro" to me. Being the Hanks Golf Coach for 24 years I was pretty much always around Vista Hills and "Pro". A lot of the success our golf team enjoyed was because Pro always had our backs and was a champion of youth golf. He gave unending support to our program and our golf team thrived because of Pro. I will always be thankful for his support. But more than that Pro was a friend and always went out of his way to help me and any young player who showed any inkling to loving golf. I am saddened by his passing knowing we have lost a true gentleman and friend. To Jacqueline and Nathan my profound condolences. Pro will always BE my "PRO"*

*Coach Felix***KEITH HOLLIS**

July 4, 2020

*Our hearts are heavy. Rose the boys and I offer our profound condolences to Nate and all the Jennings family. You have definitely lost one of the best. I first met Pro, (Terry Jennings), when I came over to VHCC from Fort Bliss to be one of his Course Marshall's. We spent so many tournament days together and always ended those trying days with a laugh and a handshake until the next. He had me constantly coming to his Pro shop and repeating a joke or two, to his friends, that I had shared with him earlier. His laugh was unforgettable. Our dine outs were fun and numerous. VHCC was his life and his baby. He made it what it was. A great place for a round of golf and a laugh or two. I have so many fond memories to remind me of Pro. He will never be forgotten. He is now absent from his body and present with the Lord. You will be so missed Pro. "Rest in peace amigo" .*

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July 4, 2020

*When I took some golf lessons with a couple of friends, Terry was there to try to guide us along. I say tried, because us gals were acting so silly and Terry just smiled and was so patient. He didn't get the least bit irritated with us and just let us have fun with it. I think that describes Terry very well. He was kind of a go with the flow guy, truly a nicer guy was hard to find. He made VHCC golf what it was in its heyday. Thank you Terry for wonderful memories and Rest In Peace now. My deepest condolences to his loved ones.*

### **Tye Beall**

July 4, 2020

*Terry Ray Jennings was an amazing ambassador the game of golf who did it with class, respect and dignity. He showed me, and countless others how to love the game when you felt like giving up and always found the bright side. He will go down as one the most beautiful humans I ever had the pleasure to be around. You will be missed, Pro and your spirit will never cease to exist. For proof on this, my best friend, Derek Hendryx is still a mud shark, "just feeding off the bottom of the ocean". Rest In Peace. -Tye Beall*

### **Irene Carvalho**

July 3, 2020

*My sincere condolences to Terry's family. He was a great friend during our time working together at VHCC. May he Rest In Peace. God has gained an angel.*

### **Kit Thomas**

July 2, 2020

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*Always the ultimate gentleman pro. He was kind, caring and would go out of his way to do things for you. I will miss him.*

### **Jean and Brad Gelo**

July 2, 2020

*Terry Jennings was one of the nicest, kindest persons we've ever met. So many happy memories our family shares of our time at Vista Hills include Terry. He would do anything to make your experience a good one, always pleasant and kind. Our boys spent so many hours up around that Pro shop and course and Terry welcomed and encouraged them. He took care of our ladies group like no other, we were the envy of other clubs. A genuine special man who will be missed. Our deepest sympathies to his family.*

### **Jeff Cleveland**

July 2, 2020

*Pro was a genuinely great guy. You won't meet many people as willing to help others as Terry. He would give you the shirt off of his back if he thought you needed it. He will be missed by many. God Bless his family.*

### **Pantaleon (Leo) Cenicerros**

July 2, 2020

*Terry was a very nice person, Pro, at Vista Hills. This is where I first met Terry and enjoyed his company. He also played golf with PAGA along with his son, Nate. Terry was a very easy going person on and off the golf course. He will be missed and may he rest in peace. Our sympathy, condolences and prayers go out to his family...*

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**Daniel Lopez**

July 2, 2020

*May God bless him and his family. He is truly missed. I will always keep him and his family in my prayers.* 🙏

**FROM THE FAMILY**[CEMETERY FLOWERS](#)[ADD A MEMORY](#)[SHARE OBITUARY](#)[RECEIVE UPDATES](#)