



# CLASS OF 2021 INDUCTEE



## GENE TORRES

**Gene Torres September 9, 1937 - June 12, 2005**

Gene Torres was born in Trinidad, Colorado on September 9, 1937. At the early age of 10, Gene was introduced to what would be his lifetime passion, the game of golf. With humble beginnings, he earned his way onto the golf course by shoveling coal into the local furnace at the Trinidad Golf Course. It would become a steppingstone to earning the position of a golf caddy. From there he made friendships that would last a lifetime and nurture his love of the game.

Those friendships eventually led him into playing tournaments and a golf career that expanded more than 57 years. In 1956, Gene went onto win the Colorado State High School Golf Championship. From 1962-2005, Gene was the Head Golf Professional and Professor at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, New Mexico, where he mentored several college golfers. Because of his inspiration, many would continue in his footsteps and become Class A PGA Golf Professionals themselves. This accomplishment brought joy to Gene as he too was a Class A PGA Golf Professional since 1970. Later, Gene would win more than 80 Professional Golf Tournaments throughout the United States and Mexico. He won 5 New Mexico Open Golf Tournaments. Four were in a row from 1968, 1969, 1970, and 1971. His 5th New Mexico Open was in 1984. In 1971 in Pinehurst, North Carolina, he won the National Pro-Am Golf Tournament at the Famed Pinehurst #1 Golf Course. He posted a new course record on the last day of 62. This victory earned him a 1972 Lincoln Continental car. In 2004, the Professional Golfers Association of America awarded Gene the Lifetime Achievement Award. It is one of the highest honors you could receive from the PGA of America.

In 2004, Gene was also inducted into the New Mexico Highlands University Hall of Honor. Lastly, in 2005 with family, friends and community members by his side, New Mexico Highlands University, in his honor, renamed and dedicated their golf course the Gene Torres New Mexico Highlands University Golf Course.

