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THE WHITE HOUSE

AFTERNOON REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
AT THE DEDICATION OF THE WORLD GOLF  
HALL OF FAME, PINEHURST, N. C.

It gives me very special pleasure to visit the Golf Capitol of the World and participate with you in the dedication of this magnificent World Golf Hall of Fame.

I'm sure most of you here realize what a thrill it is for a weekend golfer like me to walk the same fairways today with golfing greats like Byron Nelson, Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Sam Snead, Patty Berg, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and Arnold Palmer.

And then there are the other immortals who are here in spirit with us today--Walter Hagen, Harry Vardon, Francis Ouimet, Babe Didrikson Zaharias, and that great statesman of golf, Bobby Jones.

There is another great golfer who I know is watching us here today. He wasn't a professional, but his love for golf was profound, and he did as much as any man in this century to make golf one of the world's number one participant sports.

I refer, of course, to President Dwight D. Eisenhower. I know that General Ike would be deeply honored that you have chosen to include his golfing gear in this World Golf Hall of Fame.

As President Eisenhower knew so well, golf is a very special game, and it's not hard to understand its popularity. Golf is a game that crosses all borders.

Today, we are dedicating the World Golf Hall of Fame. That word world is important.

This is an international event, and participating in what my friend Jim Holshouser has proclaimed the "Grand Week of Golf" are athletes from all over the world--golfers from Argentina, Japan, South Africa, England, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Spain, Taiwan, Burma, Peru, Zambia, Canada, Grand Bahama Island.

We Americans sometimes lose sight of the fact that many things we value most have been bequeathed to us by other nations. Golf, for instance, has a centuries-old history and is just as popular in scores of nations as it is in our own.

That is why history's most spectacular chip shot struck such a responsive chord among people in so many nations of the world.

No one who saw it will ever forget that moment when Alan Shephard, swinging his homemade six iron, lofted a golf ball off the surface of the moon.

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That was truly a giant chip for mankind.

We made it to the moon because of a technology built upon the knowledge and discoveries contributed by all the nations of the earth. We made it to the moon because of the shared experience of the human race. And that chip shot symbolized all that in one of the most natural languages shared by us all--the language of golf.

Thank you.

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