



# VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

*Nominated by Kathy Carr, Director of Player Development*

Our **March 2021 Volunteers of the Month** were **Charlie Hagen, Pat Garren, Lynn Anderson, and J.D. Caven**. They were recognized for their support and contributions to the Club's Beginner's Mentoring and Novice Supervised Play Programs. As coaches they conduct warm up drills, evaluate and provide feedback on player performance, and provide guidance to reinforce the players' understanding of the rules, scoring, and court positioning.



## Charlie Hagen - March 2021

I was introduced to pickleball in Sun City when Marcelle and I moved here from Chattanooga in May, 2015. We met many new friends at the courts. And many were willing to help me with my game.

I got into instructing and mentoring when the original Beginner's Mentoring Program started. Previous experience as a certified US Soccer Federation referee, referee instructor, and referee assessor provided a lot of useful translatable instructor training and experience.

I enjoy helping others learn and improve in a sport I enjoy. I hope that they also will enjoy the fun, fitness, and friendships that are the hallmark of Sun City pickleball.

**Volunteering is  
a work of heart.**





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## Pat Garren - March 2021



A Texas native, Pat, and with his wife Petra, returned after 35 years of service with the Army and Department of Defense.

Over the course of Pat’s career, he resided in 12 states and 3 overseas countries.

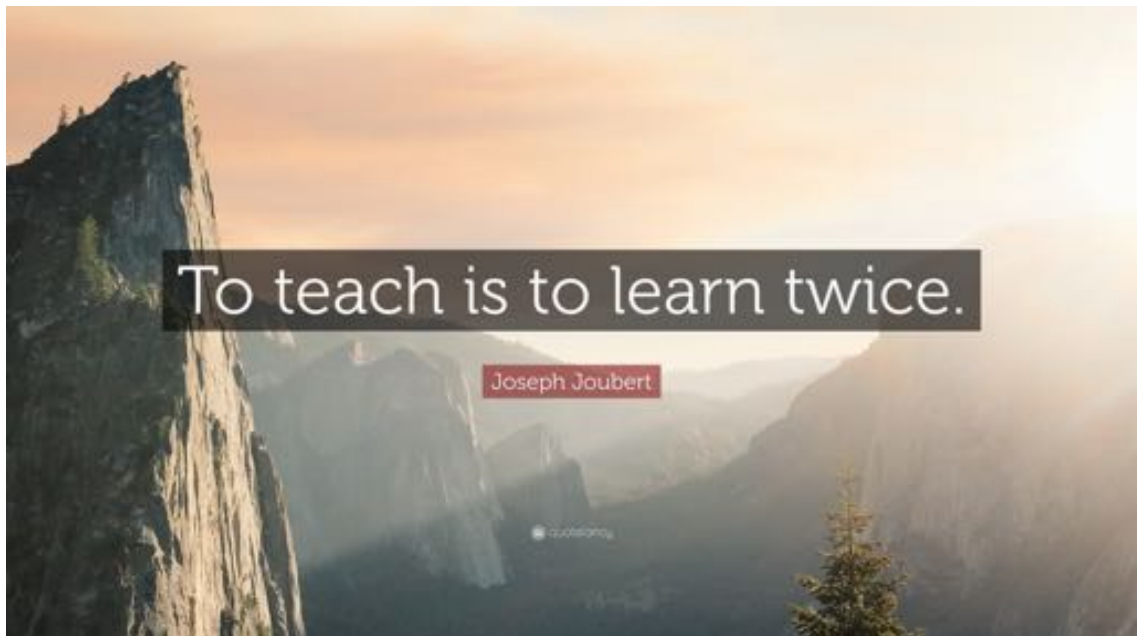
Pat followed his dream to teach after retiring and taught High School at Huntsville, Texas.

Moving to Sun City over 5 years ago, both Pat and Petra have been active with the Horticulture Club, the Firewise Group, and the Hiking Club. They also enjoy being able to spend time with their two daughters and two grandchildren.

Here, Pat found his real passion with his Pickleball family. He receives his greatest enjoyment and excitement mentoring first time players and watching

them improve; playing with all skill capabilities and personalities; and sometimes getting less than three points when playing more advanced players.

Pat has a strong personal need to offer his time and effort to “give back” for the great adventure he has been provided over the last 5 years.





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## Lynn Anderson - March 2021

In the fall of 2015, I moved to Sun City from Eden Prairie, Minnesota. I had played very little pickleball in Minnesota, but once in Sun City, it was high on my list to learn how to play.

I took the beginner class and with all the instructors' positive comments, I was hooked. Not that I was that good of a player, but that is how encouraging the instructors were.

After playing with other beginners that I met in my beginner training class for a year, I decided I needed to venture playing with other players who were better than I was. So, I put my paddle in the rack (we had the paddle system at the time) and started playing with intermediate players.

I was so insecure and felt like I was a weak link. But, once again, the positiveness and encouragement of the other players gave me the confidence to keep playing with them.

Now 5 1/2 years later, I am training beginners. I hope the little help that I give them will encourage them to keep playing and improve their pickleball skills.

I am retired, but when I was a working lady, I was a substitute teacher for 13 years while my two children, Briana and Tanner, were growing up.

Once I was divorced, I managed a group home with 4 ladies with developmental disabilities. I also started my own business in 2011 called Leave it to Lynn, in which I did anything a mom or wife would do for people who either couldn't do those things for themselves or didn't want to.

My life partner, Lance, and I love to play pickleball, bike, watch sports on TV, travel and enjoy each other's company. We are so blessed to live in Sun City and I am happy that I can help out a little bit.

**In teaching others, we teach ourselves.**



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## J.D. Caven - March 2021

I'm from a tiny town called Neodesha, Kansas. After graduating from Kansas State Teachers College (now Emporia University) in 1965, I married Joyce Whitfill.

Shortly after our marriage, Uncle Sam came calling and I went through a commissioning program at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. I was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in January 1967 and served for twenty-one years, retiring in 1987.

I served in the Air Force as a pilot and then as a Judge Advocate. I flew a plane called the OV-10 Bronco, serving as a Forward Air Controller in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia for three years. My next

aircraft was the F-4 which I flew at MacDill AFB, Florida. While at MacDill, I was medically grounded but was fortunate enough to be selected to attend law school.

I received my law degree from McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, CA. My assignments as a JAG included being the Chief Circuit Trial Counsel (a traveling prosecutor), a Chief Circuit Defense Counsel (a traveling defense attorney), and as a Staff Judge Advocate, the senior attorney on a base.

We had assignments, either flying or legal, in Texas, Vietnam, the Philippines, Florida, California, and Colorado. Our first assignment was at Bergstrom AFB (now the Austin airport), and we adopted our two children there, a daughter, Jennifer, and a son, David. Jennifer now lives in Germany, while David is a little closer in Houston. I lost my wife to cancer in 2014 and moved to Sun City to be closer to my son in 2018.

I became interested in indoor sports at Bergstrom AFB where I played squash, handball, and racquetball. I played racquetball my entire Air Force career. We took up tennis in the Philippines and on one assignment lived in a wonderful tennis resort called Blue Water Bay in Niceville, Florida.

One of the attractions of Sun City was the variety of clubs and organizations. I am a member of the Aviation Club and a few others.

I had never heard of Pickleball until I moved here to Sun City. Fortunately, I live right across the street from the Retreat courts. After watching a few games, I enrolled in the Beginner's class. Kathy and her helpers have a great training system and I enjoyed the classes so much that I decided I would try to help teach new players too.

I have enjoyed working with people who are new to the sport and hope to continue doing so in the future.