

BRENT ATKINS, THE MAN, THE LEGEND

As the chair of Communications Committee for the Rossmoor Men's Golf Club I am responsible for submitting articles to the Rossmoor News. I would like to intermittently introduce men who are members of RMGC who have a storied and or interesting past. I hope that you will get to know the community and feel comfortable to get involved.

This week, I'd like to introduce you to our current President of the RMGC Board of Directors, Brent Atkins.

Brent and his wife, Joyce, moved into Rossmoor in 2014 from Huntsville, Alabama. Brent's parents moved to Rossmoor in 1985, giving him the opportunity to become fully aware of our community and what it provides during frequent visits here with Brent.

Brent was born in Portsmouth, VA. His father was in the Navy and they traveled through his youth. Brent joined the Air Force in 1975. He was assigned to Vandenberg AFB, California, where he was educated in the operation of satellites. He subsequently moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, then to Houston, Texas and finally to Huntsville, Alabama where he worked as a Flight Controller involved with the Space Station until retiring in 2013 and moving west.

He came out west to be closer to family and for Joyce to experience life outside of Alabama. California is a very different place for someone who hasn't live here all their lives. There are times we wonder, "What are we doing here? Luckily, Rossmoor is wonderful."

Brent can't remember when he first started to play golf. Early on his father was stationed in Taiwan across the street from a driving range. He remembers picking up range balls outside of the range's fences (he lived on the right side of the range, slicing the ball has been apparent for many years). The red stripe on each ball was painted with watercolor. He'd bring those puppies home, wash them and sell them right back to the Driving Range.

Brent began playing golf seriously when in the service. His game improve continually and now he has a 7.7 index. This was accomplished with one 3 session group lesson years ago. By the way, he's great to play with in competition or just for a walk in the park.

There's much more to Brent and Joyce's life. Once they moved here, they met a woman who is 92 years old. She lives basically on Social Security and just gets by. Due to arthritis and other issues, she can't accomplish all the needs that go along with life. Brent and Joyce stepped in and became her helpers, handy man and subsequently her family. They provide her with many things that she couldn't necessarily afford. They help her care for her beloved dog including diabetic food for the pooch and walks twice a day. They have become her companions.

I believe that Brent and Joyce exemplify people who give without being asked and are to be trusted and respected.