



## **“Big Ben and Little Mo”**

### **Two of San Diego’s most beloved tennis legends honored at Balboa Tennis Club**

**San Diego, CA – October 20, 2019** - The Greater San Diego City Tennis Council (GSDCTC) proudly co-hosted a dedication event for the Press Family Tennis Pavilion (PFTP) & Maureen Connolly Brinker Tribute Wall and Walkway (MCBTW&W) at the Balboa Tennis Club (BTC).

The final wish of Ben Press, GSDCTC co-founder, to thank his parents Pauline and Charles Press for giving him the gift of tennis, led to this event. Having played central roles in San Diego’s rich tennis history, both Ben’s and Maureen’s lives and legacies were celebrated by family members and over 150 attendees.

The BTC and the GSDCTC partnered to organize the momentous event which began with the Presentation of Colors by the Navy ROTC color guard. Speakers were: Steve Avoyer, Cindy Brinker Simmons, Edie Goldberg, Geoff Griffin, Andee Press-Dawson and Bill Kellogg with event MC Logan Jenkins leading the proceedings. Long-time friends and contemporaries, Dick Doss and Dr. Bud Muehleisen, shared stories of their personal experiences and recollections growing up with Ben and Maureen. Family members unveiled the MCBTW&W and PFTP following the formal program.

BTC President Janene Christopher spearheaded architectural planning and construction oversight with BTC Director Colleen Clery Ferrell providing significant project administration. The PFTP includes a permanent shade structure, dedication plaque and hydration station. The MCBTW&W includes an image of Maureen Connolly Brinker on a six foot high concrete wall accompanied by her personal and professional history.

Board members Rick Beltran, Dave Gill, Geoff Griffin and Roz King represented the GSDCTC. Advisory board members included Steve Avoyer, Bill Kellogg, Jack McGrory and Bill Walton. Additional contributors to the Tennis Council’s event organizing efforts included outside advisor Cara Beltran, and volunteers Manuela Griffin, Pat Mason and Greg Pak.

The GSDCTC thanks the following donors for their financial contributions to the PFTP project: Andee Press-Dawson & family, Debbie Press-Lewis & family, Paul Press & family, Edie Greenberg, Steve & Pam Avoyer, Jack McGrory, Una Davis, Cindy Brinker Simmons, Brenda Brinker Bottum, Emil Ghio family, Jeff & Karen Silberman, Dan Epstein, Bill & Tricia Kellogg, Spike & Barbetta Lowndes & family, Larry & Judy Belinsky, Dave & Becki Gill, Randi & Charles Wax, USTA Southern California, La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club, GSDCTC, San Diego Tennis & Racquet Club/Angel Lopez, San Diego District Tennis Association with a special thanks to Steve Avoyer for leading the fund raising campaign.

Great appreciation goes out to Chef Guillermo Sanchez and his staff for providing the refreshments and to volunteer photographers Ron Manahan, Paul Nestor and Margery Squier.

With over 20 years of service to the San Diego tennis community, the GSDCTC extends the rich legacy of Tennis Council co-founder Ben Press by continuing to orchestrate the renovation of public tennis courts in San Diego.

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The GSDCTC is a 501-C3 charitable organization whose mission is to repair and resurface public tennis courts within San Diego County. We rely on the generosity of private donors, foundations, corporations and other entities to support our endeavors.

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From Left to Right: (Geoff Griffin, Steve Avoyer, Bill Kellogg, Logan Jenkins, Andee Press-Dawson, Edie Goldberg & Cindy Brinker Simmons)

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From Left to Right: (Top Row...Greg Pak, Pat Mason, Jack McGrory, Bill Walton, Steve Avoyer & Geoff Griffin, Bottom Row...Roz King, Cara Beltran, Rick Beltran, Bill Kellogg & David Gill)

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From Left to Right: (Brenda Brinker Bottum, Cindy Brinker Simmons and William Simmons)

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