



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**HONDA CLASSIC TO CREATE SCHOLARSHIP FOR MINORITY YOUTH**

**PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL** – The Honda Classic will create a college scholarship for minority youth named after 93-year-old Victoria Kingdom, a Riviera Beach resident who has devoted much of her adult life to playing and teaching golf.

The Victoria Kingdom Collegiate Scholarship will be awarded for the first time this spring to one or two local youngsters who best meet criteria that will be established in the coming weeks.

"I am so happy to see that The Honda Classic is honoring me with a scholarship for our youngsters to learn about golf," Kingdom said. "The older golfers are leaving us and we are happy that our youth will be available to replace some of them and become role models for others."

Kingdom was presented with a Founder's Award by the West Palm Beach-based African American Golfers Hall of Fame in 2019 for her dedication to teaching golf to local youngsters. She also was the first Black woman to work as a female locker room attendant at PGA National Resort and Spa from 1985 to 1997.

After learning the game from her husband Joseph in her 20's after they joined Shady Rest Golf and Country Club in New Jersey, they would travel around the country to play the game in places like Detroit and Las Vegas.

They moved to Riviera Beach in 1979 and joined the Fairview Golf Club, the club for Black golfers that was formed several years after two Black golfers were denied permission in 1955 to play at West Palm Beach Golf Club.

Eventually Kingdom got a job at PGA National while also running Fairview's Junior Golf Program. That program became her true passion. She would often collect money to help the kids that she was teaching.

In 2019, the African American Golfers Hall of Fame awarded Kingdom its Founders Award. Malachi Knowles, the Founder of the Hall of Fame, is part of The Honda Classic's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and Knowles was the impetus behind the scholarship being named after Kingdom.

"It's an honor to be part of this Honda Classic DEI Scholarship Initiative that will give deserving High School Seniors, a boy and a girl, in Palm Beach County the opportunity to attend an institution of higher learning," Knowles said. "Naming the scholarship, 'Victoria Kingdom Collegiate Scholarship' after Queen Victoria 'Viki' Kingdom, who continues at 93 years old to be a pillar in Riviera Beach, Fla during 'Black History Month' shows that this DEI committee is beginning to make positive steps."