

# Stadium Classic Charity Golf Tournament Raises \$100,000 for Cajun's Aviation Dream

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The fourth annual Stadium Classic charity golf tournament returned to TPC Scottsdale, giving participants the opportunity to play the famed course immediately following the PGA Tour's WM Phoenix Open, all while helping raise \$100,000 for [Cajun's Aviation Dream](#), a nonprofit dedicated to supporting aspiring pilots and preserving the legacy of Major Stephen "Cajun" Del Bagno. What began as a unique post-tournament golf experience has evolved into a growing philanthropic effort, blending sports, community and charitable giving.

"When I started Stadium Classic, I never imagined it would grow into a 501(c)(3) capable of making this kind of impact or building the relationships that have come with it," Founder Kirk McClure said. "Our \$100,000 commitment to Cajun's Aviation Dream is something I'm deeply proud of. The organization is doing real, meaningful work – providing scholarships, funding flight training, and opening doors for young people who dream of a future in aviation. More importantly, we are helping them keep Cajun's life and legacy alive by giving the next generation the opportunity to chase the same dream he lived every day."

Cajun's Aviation Dream was founded to honor the life and legacy of Del Bagno, who fulfilled his lifelong dream of flying with the elite U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds as the team's No. 4 Slot Pilot. Known for his passion, humility and dedication to inspiring others, Del Bagno encouraged young people to pursue their goals through what he called his "4 P's to Prosperity": passion, purpose, persistence and personality. Through scholarships and flight-training support, Cajun's Aviation Dream continues working to help young people pursue careers in aviation while carrying forward the spirit and values he championed.

"We feel so blessed to have been selected as this year's beneficiary. The love and support we have received allows us to continue Cajun's mission and carry on his legacy," said Jeannette Crowder, president of Cajun's Aviation Dream. "Because of this opportunity, we will be able to impact so many young people! We are eternally grateful."

The event brought together golfers, sponsors, community supporters and members of the aviation community for an evening centered around both celebration and remembrance. Guests heard speeches from Del Bagno's family members and fellow Thunderbird pilots while enjoying food from Valley restaurants. The evening also featured wine tastings from Kerr Cellars, beverages from Roxx Vodka and OHSO Brewery, golf simulators and a silent auction that included resort stays, exclusive golf experiences, watches and other high-end items. The following day, golfers headed to TPC Scottsdale for the tournament, including the opportunity to play the famous 16th hole while the stadium-style seating from the WM Phoenix Open remained in place.

In addition to the golf, the event highlighted strong community and corporate support from across Arizona. JE Dunn Construction returned as the tournament's title sponsor, joined by major sponsors including DPR Construction, Talent Corp, Kensington Vanguard and Commonwealth Title. As Stadium Classic continues to grow, organizers say the event's purpose remains centered on creating meaningful impact through charitable giving while bringing people together around memorable experiences. This year's partnership with Cajun's Aviation Dream offered exactly that. Learn more at [Stadium Classic](#) or [cajunsaviationdream.org](#).