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NYS Nursing Deaths Likely Undercounted Criticism Over Legislature Hearings

Nursing homes are again the focus of attention regarding Coronavirus. Dual data points tell two very different stories.

The number of confirmed COVID cases in assisted living facilities is nearing the all-time record, according to the American Health Care Association. Although infection numbers are spiking towards May heights, deaths have not risen in the same fashion. Between May and July, COVID deaths in nursing homes have actually fallen by more than half.

On the other hand, the state of New York is seemingly bucking the national trend in raw numbers. Going back to March, the Cuomo Administration claimed that the rate of individuals who died in nursing facilities since the outbreak began is

far lower than surrounding states.

Cuomo claims that the percentage of nursing home deaths as a whole of Coronavirus deaths is 20% of the total. Pennsylvania is 68%, New Jersey 44%, and Massachusetts 64%. However, an Associated Press tally records that ranked with official number from the federal government, that New York's toll may be twice as large, proportionally, as reported. Part of this stems, according to their analysis and elected Republicans, is due to Cuomo's order to send COVID patients from hospitals to nursing homes.

The state legislature held hearings on the issues, but limited time and speakers, including FoxNews contributor Janice Dean. Dean was

denied a slot after requesting to testify. Both of her parents died of Coronavirus in the state.

Republican State Senate Leader Rob Ort said in a statement, "Grieving family members who were separated from their loved ones in nursing homes, assisted living, and long term care facilities during the coronavirus pandemic deserve a government that provides transparency and accountability. It is shameful that today's Democrat-controlled hearing will provide them with neither."

"For months, state Senate Republicans have demanded an independent investigation into the impact of the state's actions in these facilities, and the majority of Democrats remained silent."

Harris Repeats as Champ



Winners of the Stamford Golf Club Men's Invitational tournament are, from left: Justin Harris, champion; Bob VanValkenburgh, A Flight; Duffy Mulford, Jack Maxwell Medalist Trophy winner; Mike Ciaravino, C Flight and Steve Hubbard, Senior Flight. Absent from the photo was B Flight winner Joe Lambrecht.

By Liz Page

STAMFORD – To say Justin Harris loves the Stamford Golf Club might be an understatement. He claimed the Stamford Golf Club Men's Invitational Golf Tournament title for his second straight year on Sunday, winning the championship in a 21-hole playoff over John Beczak.

Harris is from Unadilla and the 35-year-old golfer advanced to the championship round by defeating Neil Krick in Friday's qualifying round, Gov Govern in Saturday's 2nd round and Duffy Mulford in the semifinal round. All are top golfers and regulars to the tournament. Govern won it in 2018 over Austin O'Connor.

Beczak, who has played in the annual tournament for a number of years, defeated Austin O'Connor in Friday's qualifying round, Andy Lorimer in the second round and Cary Trappenburg in the semifinal round.

Harris and Beczak were even after 18 holes of play, and it took three extra holes for Harris to finally claim victory again.

Last year Harris said his father taught him to love the game and that it is just "you against the course" and he has done well on the Stamford course two years in a row. Prior to last year's championship he had never played the course before. And, he said, he has not played the course again until last weekend. "I love playing here. I love the people, they are so nice and so friendly, and I love the tour-

namment. It really is a great tournament."

The match was never in anyone's hands, the two golfers staying in touch throughout the match to finish 18 holes even and taking it into sudden death.

Duffy Mulford won the Jack Maxwell Medalist Trophy with the low score of 67 in Friday's qualifying round. He won the honors last year as well, with a 68. Although it has been dry this summer, there is traditionally rain on the opening Friday of the tournament each year and this year was no different. Mulford joked that he likes playing in the rain and does well in the rain.

There was little fanfare at the clubhouse following the end of the 83rd annual Invitational, except for the handing out of prize money and the trophies.

This year's tournament honored Rob Turner, with Victor Jessen providing the testimonial to the longtime club member, who was a regular in the Invitational each year. Turner's son Tony, and his wife, Holly, traveled from Colorado to be on hand for the honors.

Turner taught culinary arts at SUNY Delhi for a number of years and his students ran the clubhouse concession at one point.

Jessen said he met him at the club 38 years ago and they became golfing companions and good friends.

"He has chefs all over the world. He introduced me to frogs legs."

There were also kudos

for the grounds crew and the Invitational committee, along with Brad Anderson in the Pro Shop and the staff who helped keep things running smoothly throughout the weekend.

"This year's tournament filled up faster than anyone can remember," said Wayne Lord, board president and tournament chairman.

Some regular players were halted from making the trip back home for the tournament. Billy Hendee, who traditionally plays in the tournament, did not make the trip from Houston, Texas, according to his brother Chuck, who went home with some prize money.

The annual tournament is in the books, with another successful year, despite the pandemic.

This year's Stamford Golf Club Men's Invitational winners were:

Championship Flight – Justin Harris over John Beczak

A Flight – Bob VanValkenburgh over Kevin Meade

B Flight – Joe Lambrecht over Paul DeFeo

C Flight – Mike Ciaravino over Lee Swenson

Senior Flight – Steve Hubbard over Barry Jacknow

Beaten's winners:

Championship Flight – Niel Krick over Greg Funck

A Flight – Jamie O'Donnell over Eric Swenson

B Flight – Chuck Hendee over Mike Bergleitner

C Flight – Jim Meagley over Krister Swenson

Senior Flight – Jim Peters over Bill Osborne

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INDEX

Obituaries	A2
Here's the Scoop	A4
Windham Weekly	C1
TriCounty News	D1
The Catskill Geologists	D1
Editorial	D8
Whittling Away	D1
Classifieds	D



Letters to the Editor
on Page A4



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