

**Texas Shuffleboard
Hall of Fame
Inductee's**



September 1, 2007
Texas Open
The Post, Cedar Park, Texas



Tom & Lynda French

September 1, 2007
Texas Open Hosted
The Post, Cedar Park, Texas

PERSONAL HISTORY

Tom French was born June 9, 1950 in Benton, Arkansas. Lynda is a native of Austin, Texas, born on the cusp, January 19th. Tom enlisted into the Army September 1968 and did two tours of duty in Vietnam between 1968 and 1971, honorably discharged in 1972, joined the Air guard until 1982. Tom then joined the Navy Reserve which he retired from in 1995 as an ET-1 Sonar Technician. Tom was also employed at IBM from 1974-2006 when his job was "out sourced" to India and China in November 2006 after 33 years of service.

Lynda Lehmann French attended the University of Texas, Florida Atlantic University and Stanford University in California. Lynda was then employed by UT for the University's Computer-Assisted-Instruction (CAI) Lab for 3 years; the Statewide Project for the Deaf program for 5 years, the IRS for 4 years; and then landed her career job at IBM in 1977 from where she took an early retirement in 2000.

Tom and Lynda met on an IBM mixed bowling league. They were married January 18, 1992 and "blended" their families: Tom's daughter, Jennifer; and Lynda's three children, Glenna, Jerald and Kimberly. Together they have six grandchildren.

After Lynda suffered a knee injury, fellow bowler Linda Anthony & Tom's brother Ted, introduced Tom & Lynda to the game of Shuffleboard. They watched for quite some time while Ron & Debbie Bowers, Linda and other players from the Mist encouraged them to play. Once they did, they were hooked and the game was blessed to receive two of the most respected members of the Shuffleboard community.

The French's have worked harder than anybody in the game to promote this sport they love. They have served in every capacity, tournament promoters, directors, raters, held offices and positions in various capacities and were the Editors/Publishers of the beloved The Board Talk from 2000-2005 until the owner of the publication made a decision to shut it down.

Willingly and with Tom's support, Lynda accepted the position of Secretary for the Table Shuffleboard Association (TSA) in 2000 to include being the Webmaster for the association. She had plenty of experience for that position as she had already created and maintained one of the most essential components in the game, Ron & Debbie Bowers rating system website. Ron and Debbie will freely tell you that Lynda's help and contribution to the system is part of what keep them willing to continue.

Most recently, Lynda accepted the position of CFO/Treasurer for the TSA and has again jumped in with vigor. She was an intricate part of initiating a printed publication for the association in the knowledge that this game has and would suffer more without a printed communication channel for the shuffleboard community. She single-handedly receives, edits and publishes all of the information sent in from across the country before it ships out to the print shop.

Tom contributes his time, efforts and creative talents in many ways. He has directed many successful events in Nevada and Texas. His talent for running brackets while maintaining his composure and laughter is a gift second only to bracket master Rob Kern.

His most recent contributions to events have been donating his beautiful hand crafted weight cases to events for winners & raffles, they can be seen proudly carried at any event across the country. Without Tom's love and support, his immeasurable help in caring for their home and family, Lynda would not be able to contribute all that she does.

This loving couple, to say the least, are remarkable.

It must be noted that The French's have contributed this much to the sport while raising their three grandchildren for the last 12 years. Cassie, Christopher and Priscilla Platzer, who are now 17, 15 & 13. The responsibility of raising a second family of children is one that most people don't and won't consider. Tom & Lynda have done it with much love and compassion that one can feel just being in their presence. Their morals and family values are a part of them that we could all learn from.

Congratulations Tom & Lynda. You are two of the most loved, respected and dedicated players and promoters of the game that Table Shuffleboard has or will have for a long time to come.

everything. Now I am pissed off. However, I congratulated my very good friend Linda Nobles and dropped it.

Somebody told Tom and Lynda what happened and 30 minutes later they hunted me down and were very upset with what had happened and wanted to make it right. They were willing to go as far as to replaying the game. This is typical Tom and Lynda trying to please everybody, make everything perfect. At this point, they were more upset than me. That's when I remembered something my daddy used to say to my siblings and I. He would say "kids, life isn't always fair".

One of his favorite examples was every now and then you get up in the morning, go outside to get the paper, and of the fifty cars parked on the street a flock of birds decided to shit on your car only. (I think he used the work poop, but I use shit because it sounds better!). Dad said you can sit around analyzing or pouting about why it happened to you, wasting precious life or you can wash the car and get on with your life. Well after revisiting my childhood memories, I looked at Tom and Lynda and said I am going downstairs to the casino for some of those so called free drinks, believe me my friends, what is going to happen down there in the casino is going to be far more tragic than what happened in here!! This is when once again I was on the receiving end of Lynda's sweet gentle smile and Tom's rip roaring laughter.

One can assume with the recent tragedy that has fallen upon Tom & Lynda that Lynda's smile and Tom's laughter has lessened. For them it must seem like a violent storm that has stationed itself over their dwelling. Be assured with their great strength, endurance, and rich bounty of friends, they will weather this storm and watch it dissipate. The frequent gentle smile and rip, roaring laughter will prevail!

Chris Smith

PS . . . For those of you who feel betrayed because I said I would keep this letter short and to the point. . . Well alii can say is go wash your car!

Chris Smith

Where to begin . . . I met Tom and Lynda at Taz Country in Pflugerville, Texas in the mid 90's. My mom, Mary Halvorson, had been playing shuffleboard for many years and after the Texas Mist closed a group of people showed up at Taz and really started to put the pressure on us to get away from our favorite game, "horsecollar". Needless to say they proceeded to show us how the game was really played. I became hooked and started going to Taz twice a week, if not more, to play. I found myself drawn to Tom and Lynda as they were two of the most friendly and encouraging players I had ever met. In fact, it wasn't too long after Larry and I started playing together that they asked us to partner with them in the 4th of July tournament at Del City. Well, this was our first tournament so I guess there is no need to mention, we got our asses kicked!!

Tom and Lynda didn't seem to mind and we had a great time. I can't imagine Shuffleboard without Tom and Lynda. They are true promoters of this sport and I can't think of any two people that are more deserving than the French's. Congratulations Tom & Lynda, I love you guys!

Holly Nance

To Tom and Lynda French,

There could be no two people who deserve this honor more. You are the epitome of honor, competitiveness, good sportsmanship and a willingness to help others. We have played with and against each other for more years than we can remember and your have always conducted yourselves with class. You are our heroes!

Bobby & Jeri Williams

Despite a recent family tragedy and the need to care for their injured grandson full time, they are keeping up the work for the game and their friends.

No one has ever deserved membership in the Texas Hall of Fame more than Tom & Lynda French.

Robert L. Hoffman

Many thanks, to Tom and Lynda French for their tireless efforts to the game of Shuffleboard and the players.

We are proud to know them as friends and hope they have many more years of fun and contributions to the promotion of the game.

Don & Jean Roper

I am delighted that Tom & Lynda French have received the much deserved recognition as members of the Texas Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

They have provided more hard work and leadership for the shuffleboard community than anyone else in the game.

I particularly appreciate the excellent website which Lynda created and has maintained for my establishment, Harbor Point, at no charge. The site has been a big help to my business and myself. They have prepared similar sites for other shuffleboard related businesses, not to mention they are two of the finest people I have ever met.

I send them my best wishes and Thanks for their work, not only to me but the entire game.

Greg Hixson

How fitting that such a wonderful, caring couple who have devoted untold time and effort to the game they both love so much, should be inducted into the Texas Shuffleboard Hall of Fame as a couple. I'm sure that all players, not only throughout Texas, but across the Nation, join me in offering them a well deserved congratulations.

To Tom & Lynda; the warmth and friendship with which you've always treated me is cherished more than I can put into words, other than to say, I love you dearly.

Jack Davis

Tom & Lynda,

Congratulations, what an honor to be among a group with two individuals who strive to make the game better for everyone, new and old players alike.

Although we have never met you in person, our many phone conversations and emails with your guidance to help me in all my trials and tribulations to put out a newsletter for the PNW ESA, makes us feel like we have been friends forever! I am sure I could not have done it without your help and support. I can hardly wait for the day we actually meet.

You both totally deserve this recognition. You always go the extra mile . . . All in the name of friendship & Shuffleboard.

Friends,

Tim & Sharon Nugent

Congratulations Tom and Lynda on your induction into the Texas Shuffleboard Hall of Fame!!! Everybody knows of your great contributions the game. Therefore, I will try to keep this short and to the point. (This will be the first time I've accomplished such a feat) Whenever I think of the French's, I think of Lynda's quiet little smile and Tom's rip roaring laughter. I'm reminded of a story, which took place at the Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Tom and Lynda were hosting a Board Talk tournament. I was playing in the doubles against Linda Nobles and don't remember either of our partner's. The score was 14 all, with our opponents last weight a deep 1. My partner shoots his hammer and it stops at what looks like a dead heat. None of us could make a determination on which puck was ahead, they looked dead even. Meanwhile there was this young kid who when asked a couple of days earlier, volunteered to be a tournament director. He saw what was going on and was eager to help and said I will be back in a minute. Well he comes back with this new high tech tool he mounts to the sides of the board and then he takes the arm across the board and hits m weight. It didn't hit my weight because my weight was deepest, it was because he had the arm screwed way too far out. (Bless his heart, it could have happened to anybody) Realizing his error and under the pressure of it all the kid said the other weight was deepest. Up until this point I was ok with

TESTIMONIALS & CONGRATULATIONS TO TOM & LYNDA FRENCH

I have known Tom & Lynda French since the late 80's when we were all bowlers at Highland Lanes. Tom was a terrific bowler with a 200 average.

When Lynda suffered a knee injury, I convinced them to give shuffleboard a try at the Texas Mist where a lot of us played. They only observed for a time, a bit intimidated by all the good shufflers who had been playing for a long time. They finally did start playing and the game received two of the most kind, giving players we have in the shuffleboard family. When Tom & Lynda first realized that their three grandchildren were placed in foster care, they had some serious decisions to make. Although many friends were willing to take one or the other, Love & Family prevailed!! Tom & Lynda made a decision to keep the three

children together and raise a second family. A decision I both admire and respect.

Tom & Lynda French have given so much to the growth and promotion of this game we all love. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank them both for all the time and dedication they have given to the game of shuffleboard.

Linda Anthony

Tom & Lynda French, or Oma & Opa to us, are two of the most wonderful people in our lives.

Both of them have worked so hard in everything they do. Our Grandma has been like a true Mother to us as our Grandpa has been our true Father.

They have loved shuffleboard since they started playing in 1992. They even published The Board Talk for five years.

Our Grandparents have devoted much of their lives together to the game and in doing so have met a second family along the way. All the players are like family to them and us and they always stick together.

These two people mean the world to us. They have done more for us than anyone could ever ask. They have given us a beautiful home and a loving family. We love them and couldn't be happier that they are being inducted into the Texas Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Love Always,

Cassie, Chris and Priscilla

The list of your contributions and dedication to Shuffleboard are too many to mention so we will only say this, Thank-you, for all of your years of service to the promotion of this great game, for being our friends and for sharing with us the love and respect you have for one another and your family. Congratulations, with our love and respect,

Dan & Melody

Tom & Lynda have opened their home and family to me for the Texas Open for the last two years. Despite my special needs they welcome me with open arms. They have contributed so much to the game. I love the new TSA News. Thank you for all you that you do.

Steve Kalamarski

When I think of Tom and Lynda French, I first think of their endeavors to maintain a written shuffleboard publication. They spent endless hours working on and trying to save The Board Talk. Now we applaud their efforts in the new TSA publication. I do not believe most of the readers of these publications realize how much time and effort it takes to put one together. I personally want to thank Lynda, for all the years she has worked as Webmaster for Bowers Shuffleboard Corner. I also realize she could not have done such a great job if it was not for Tom's support. Lynda is also Webmaster for the TSA. There is tons of information on these two sites, used by beginners and pros alike. These websites demand constant attention and updates. I am afraid the tangible rewards for all these hours of laboring are very small, but that does not phase the French's determination to aid in the future of Table Shuffleboard. Last but not least, Tom & Lynda, are always available to aid in the success of a shuffleboard tournament. They have been tournament directors in many a great tournament. If they just show up at a tournament they can't keep from trying to help out.

There are givers and takers in this world.

Tom and Lynda French are big, big GIVERS!!!



Thank you Tom and Lynda.

Ron Bowers

I agree with Ron on all the above. I would like to add that the WORLD is a better place with both of them in it. Tom and Lynda would give you the shirt off their backs if needed, they are truly wonderful people and I am so glad they are my friends.

Thank you both and congratulations!!!!

Love ya,

Debo (Bowers)



Tom & Lynda French have done an exemplary job promoting this game we love so much. The shuffleboard community is so lucky to have them as players and most importantly, as friends.

Congratulations and best wishes always.

Fred Boyd and Cindy Demory

We first met Tom & Lynda at one of the many events held by them Williams Boys (David & Bobby, for those of you fairly new to this sport) over at the Gold Nugget in Arlington Texas. We had to venture down to Austin to play after getting to know both of them.

As for promoters of the sport of shuffleboard, you would be hard pressed to find two better people. They both truly love the game and have always shown great sportsmanship. I've watched them both help new players with advice and technique. Both have entered and played in events with newcomers and have had a great impact on how these new players have perceived this great sport. It is so important for new players to see that the better players are willing to show & teach them how this game is played.

Tom & Lynda both represent this great game of Shuffleboard with a dignity that comes from a true love of the sport.

They took over where The Wilber's left off to keep our shuffleboard world with a means for communication for as long as possible. I know I speak for a lot of people that truly hated to see our beloved "The Board Talk" disappear but no one was as sad about it as the French's were. They are our friends, our opponents, our teammates and a huge part of this shuffleboard community.

Tom & Lynda, Kay and I love you both and want to congratulate you on this honorable achievement.

Gary & Kay Nelson

Forney, Texas

Texas Shuffleboard Players are not only honored but very fortunate to have Tom and Lynda French among the elite troops of the group I like to refer as "Promoters with Rectitude" or in simpler words, "users of strong moral integrity in character and actions, while encouraging the growth and development of our beloved sport".

As in all sports wishing to continue with growth and development, our Shufflers must support, encourage and show gratitude to our elite troops. Most of all "Promoters with Rectitude" must continue to lead us all on the roadway towards success for our beloved Sport.

Tom & Lynda, "Thank-you" for your outstanding attributes and accomplishments in Table Shuffleboard, the respective fellowship and notably your paragon of virtues towards family values. So please, we wish to encourage you both to keep up the good work.

Congratulations,

Mahlon & Linda Nobles

Tom and Lynda are very fine people. A few days after we lost Dave's mom, we escaped San Antonio and went to Austin to play and get our minds off of things at home. Lynda had just found out she had cancer.

The four of us played on board 1 at Taz for hours. We had a blast! It was an incredible comfort to spend time with our shuffleboard family, especially Tom and Lynda while in their time of uncertainty as well. Shuffleboard offers more than just competition. These are people you can rely on when you really need them.

It is with our deepest affection and admiration that we offer our congratulations to Tom and Lynda French for their induction into the Texas Hall of Fame.

Dave and Debbie Sexton

I have known Tom and Lynda French for approximately twelve years through various shuffleboard tournaments in Texas and Oklahoma. They both exude the spirit of "Texas Hospitality", always smiling, helpful and eager to help new players relax and feel at ease. I can never thank Lynda enough for all of her assistance during my tenure as Secretary to the Greater Dallas Shuffleboard Association (2006-2007), any time I had questions or needed information or with suggestions on who to contact. I added Lynda to my general shuffleboard e-mail distribution list and I was amazed that without being asked, she immediately posted every flyer and all tournament information to the TSA and Bowers websites and calendars. They have been very helpful to the Dallas shuffleboard community. In fact, she is the web master for most, if not all Dallas area shuffleboard websites. Their helpful spirit and seemingly unlimited energy are truly amazing.

Pam Lee

Dallas, Texas

Tom & Lynda French are two of the hardest workers for shuffleboard on the planet. They should be rewarded for so many things they have done for the game. Off the top of my head, keeping The Board Talk alive with Champion after George and Donna Wilber retired, the help they have given to the Bowers, keeping a website with tons of info for years, the many hours of work for the TSA for years and now their efforts on the Table Shuffleboard news.

They have promoted tournaments highlighted with The Board Talk Las Vegas events. They open their home for players for local events, and are always there when players have problems. The list goes on and on of the good works this couple has done. As players they both love the game, Lynda has been my partner several times dragging me to a 1st place win a few times at the Holiday Open. The French's are people of great honor and character. They belong in the Hall of Fame.

Danny Green

Tom & Lynda,

Congratulations on your induction into the Texas Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. I can think of no one more deserving as you held the shuffleboard community together with your publication of The Board Talk. I applaud your tireless efforts to the game.

David Williams, Sr.

I met Tom and Lynda French at the Texas Mist during my first trip to Austin. They have always been great friends and are extremely personable. Tom and Lynda have worked diligently in many areas of the game, both of them have always promoted shuffleboard and are available whenever needed. You are both very deserving and I am so proud of you. Congratulations on being inducted into the Texas Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Johnny Wayne Crawford

We are most pleased to express our appreciation for all the hard work and dedication that Tom & Lynda French have tirelessly provided to the shuffleboard community for many, many years.

Their work with The Board Talk, in helping run the TSA and in every other conceivable shuffleboard activity has been crucial to the success of the game.

Many Thanks,

Gerry & Ann King

No one has given as much to the game of Shuffleboard as Tom & Lynda French. They, of course, took over management of The Board Talk when it appeared that the game would have no voice. When the owner of that magazine decided not to continue publication, they set up outstanding websites for both the TSA and the Bowers ratings system. Without those sites and their continuous emails and letters to players, the sport would have had no effective means of communication and would have withered. They have run outstanding tournaments and have served in every capacity in helping run the tournaments of others.

When Katrina was on its way, Lynda called and sent emails to every player she could think of in Houston offering to let them weather the storm in their home or in the homes of other Austinites she rounded up. Lynda has designed and maintained at no charge many sites for shuffleboard establishments and also has been instrumental in the long overdue decision of the Table Shuffleboard Association to sponsor a publication and to become much more active in the game. That admirable contribution helped to make the first edition of the TSA newsletter she put together excellent! .

Largely because of their efforts, membership in the TSA is up five fold in less than one year.