

## **2023 Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame Inductee:**

### **Joe Longen**

Joe Longen has been the “#1 fan” of Minnesota chess for half a century. Joe has enthusiastically participated in every aspect of the chess community. He has been a scholastic champion, a master-level player, a chess whisperer during his military service, a dedicated coach, a writer & researcher for the Minnesota Chess Journal, a founder of the Hall of Fame, a leading conversationalist on all things chess, and a friend to many.

Joe’s scholastic accomplishments included 4 individual state titles, 5 state team titles across 4 different schools, the 1978 Elementary Championship (Individual & Team with Lincoln Elementary), 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the 1983 US Junior Open, and an undefeated 1<sup>st</sup> place finish on Board #2 at the 1984 National High School Team Championships. Of Joe’s many amazing accomplishments in the chess arena, perhaps none is more incredible than when he won the 1978 National Elementary Championship in Atlanta, Georgia. It was Joe’s one year with the legendary Lincoln Team after his transfer from Thorson. With the win, Joe became the first elementary player to win both the individual & team championships in the same year.

After graduating from Cooper High School Joe enlisted in the Navy and was stationed on a ship overseas for much of his service time. Joe entertained the crew and boosted the ship’s morale with frequent displays of his chess talent. Joe was twice the Sea Service Champion and also qualified twice for the prestigious NATO tournament, becoming the first American to go undefeated at the NATO event in 1986.

Joe has played in the State Championship Playoffs 4 times and has an impressive 28-year span between his first appearance in 1991 and his most recent appearance in 2019. This span has only been exceeded in Minnesota chess history by the likes of Brasket, Radermacher and Rudolph...all members of the Hall of Fame.

Joe has been called on many times over the years by the leading Minnesota chess coaches to provide game analysis and other coaching assistance for their teams. More recently, Joe’s status as the “#1 fan” of Minnesota chess has been evident as he reignited the Hall of Fame and the Minnesota Chess Journal. Joe’s passion for Minnesota’s chess history is contagious and he has been the primary driver to make the forgotten (Hall of Fame) and impossible (Minnesota Chess Journal) be both remembered and thriving!