

Robert T. (Bobby) Jones, Jr.

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Robert T. Jones, Jr., born 1902 in Atlanta, was voted by Associated Press to be the most outstanding American golfer of the first half century. By winning the Grand Slam of Golf, he achieved a feat no one has ever matched. In 1930 he won the four most prestigious championships in the world - the British Amateur, the British Open, the United States Amateur, and the United States Open. Prior to that, he had won numerous important tournaments.

After winning the Grand Slam, he retired from competitive golf and became an attorney in a fine law firm in Atlanta. He wrote two books on golf and made golf instructional movies in Hollywood. His autographed clubs by A.G. Spalding Company became the most popular in the United States.

Jones' other great contribution to golf was being a co-founder with Cliff Roberts, a New York City investment banker, of the Augusta National Golf Club and the Masters Tournament there. The Masters is now a world-wide famous championship.

In 1947 Jones became afflicted with a rare spinal disease which grew progressively worse and which confined him to a wheelchair. He fought the disease with the same courage he tackled a golf course. He continued to practice law and preside over the Masters Tournament.

Jones was known for his fiery temper as a young golfer and was threatened with expulsion by the United States Golf Association. Finally, he conquered his temper and became known for his sportsmanship on the course and his gentlemanly qualities. He died in 1971 and was buried in a private ceremony in Oakland Cemetery of Atlanta according to his wishes. Tributes poured into Atlanta from all over America and from England and Scotland where he was a tremendous favorite of golfing fans.