

## HAROLD BLANCHARD NBCC / CHESS BIOGRAPHY

The NBCC's first honorary tournament of 2023 was held for veteran member Harold Blanchard. Like many of the recent members who the club has honored, Harold learned how to play chess when he was very young. He was only eight years old when his older brother taught him how to play the game, and he fell in love with it ever since, playing practically every day until the age of twenty-one. Unfortunately, once he migrated to the U.S. from his native country of Haiti, he stopped playing chess for the next twenty-five years. Regrettably, Harold was not able to continue playing the game he loved due to a lack of access. Ten years ago, in 2013, Harold met Bill Campbell. Bill and Harold worked in the same department at the state of Connecticut. They played casual chess during their lunch hour. Bill was pleasantly surprised by Harold's skill set despite not playing the game for a long time. It was then that Bill introduced Harold to the NBCC. And the rest is history, my friends! Harold is one of our club's amateur and active competitors, and he enjoys the variety of activities that the club has to offer. He has maintained a consistent rating of 1500 for many years but has been known to defeat a few class B players along the way. Do not let his peaceful personality fool you! He can be a very aggressive chess player when he is pressured! One of Harold's biggest achievements in the club was winning first place in the first Andris Strazdins Stein. What an honor! Harold is a genuinely kind and gentle soul, a very soft-spoken man with the highest integrity and values. He is passionate about the game and compassionate towards all of his friends in the chess community. We look forward to many more years with Harold. He is truly a nice guy! For his special tournament, Harold opted to have players choose an opponent within 200 rating points of each other for a two-game, G/24; d/5 match. If there was a tie after both rounds, an Armageddon playoff would take place. The following members won this unique event: Matthew Costello, Kevin Corteville, Ian Wohlhieter, Nathan Mezheritskiy, Thomas Sullivan, Norman Burtness, Dennis Himes, USCF NM David Herscovici, and Yonatan Alexrad.