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## **From McAllen to the World Stage: Honoring Professional Golfer Abraham Ancer**

***Internationally acclaimed golfer makes generous contribution to Champion Lakes***

McAllen city leaders honored hometown golf star Abraham Ancer during a ceremony at Champion Lakes Golf Course, recognizing his \$100,000 donation to support the development of a short game practice area and officially proclaiming January 5 as “Abraham Ancer Day.”

The new practice area will provide golfers of all skill levels the chance to learn, practice, and enjoy the game, expanding and strengthening recreational opportunities.

A native of McAllen, Texas, raised in Reynosa, Mexico, Ancer has built an internationally recognized career, representing Mexico in prestigious competitions including the Presidents Cup and the Olympic Games. Despite his success on the world stage, Ancer has remained deeply connected to his roots and committed to giving back to the region that shaped him.

“Abraham’s philosophy, *don’t change the game, improve your skills*, exemplifies a mindset for success,” said City Manager Isaac “Ike” J. Tawil. “His generosity will create lasting opportunities for golfers and reflects the spirit of giving back that strengthens our community.”

City leaders recognized Abraham Ancer’s dedication to excellence, community engagement, and service during the brief ceremony. Carlos Espinosa, Director of Golf at Champion Lakes Golf Course, and a former professional golfer and member of the Rio Grande Valley Sports Hall of Fame unveiled a commemorative plaque that will be installed near the new practice greens.

The City of McAllen is fortunate to have Espinosa on its team. He has maintained a meaningful lifelong relationship with Ancer and his family, who were present in the audience. Espinosa’s introduction reflected a deep personal connection, and a friendship rooted in shared history, creating a touching moment that resonated with those in attendance.

“Abraham Ancer represents the best of McAllen,” said Mayor Javier Villalobos. “His commitment to excellence, his achievements, generosity, and his continued connection to our community serve as an inspiration to residents of all ages.

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