



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**For more information contact:**  
Companions in Courage Foundation  
(914) 325-4870  
[JJohnson@CiC16.org](mailto:JJohnson@CiC16.org)

## **7th ANNUAL CiC GOLF CLASSIC FEATURES LEETCH & MESSIER**

-----

### **Celebrities and Executives Hear from “Pioneer” George Ross**

MANHASSET, NY, October 5, 2009 – Just a few weeks prior to his formal induction in the Hockey Hall of Fame, Rangers legend Brian Leetch was feted at Deepdale Golf Club as Pat LaFontaine hosted the 7th Annual Companions in Courage Foundation Golf Classic.

LaFontaine said, “Leetchie was always looking to help out those in need during his playing career, so it is fitting that we get a chance to recognize him just prior to his induction. And having Mark Messier on hand to help honor Brian was a special treat.”

Merrill Lynch served as primary sponsor for the event that also featured George Ross being recognized with the CiC Foundation’s “Pioneer Award”. Ross and his wife, Billie were the first donors to step up and help get the inaugural Lion’s Den built at Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital in Westchester in 2005.

At the post-golf dinner, Ross gave an impassioned presentation on the importance of giving back to those less fortunate. His remarks set the tone for a wonderful evening geared at helping sick kids in hospitals.

Each company was represented by some of the elite from their firms, and helped contribute to the raising of more than \$160,000 during the day. LaFontaine, Leetch and Messier led a

contingent of celebrities that included fellow Hockey Hall of Famers Bryan Trottier and Clark Gillies.

The field of celebrities also included 1980 Olympic captain Mike Eruzione, former Toronto Blue Jays first baseman Willie Upshaw, the NBA's Wally Szczerbiak, former Mets shortstop Bud Harrelson, and hockey's Pat Flatley, Butch Goring, Benoit Hogue, Grant Marshall, Michael Peca, Jean Potvin, Gilles Villemure, and Steve Webb.

Clark Gillies was the overall champ, while Weeden & Co.'s Craig Hetherington was runner-up. Grant Marshall won the Long Drive contest with a bomb on Hole # 11, while Al DeMeo won the closest to the pin contest on Hole #4.

The Heagerty Family Foundation team captained by Pat Flatley that included Mike Dischmann, Joe Gundermann, Don Krause and Mitch Reiver took the low gross team honors with a score of 64. They won in a match of cards against the Morgan Stanley team captained by Szczerbiak and featuring Jerry Wood, Bob Berbenicia, Steve Fisher and Paul Mazzola.

LaFontaine thanked all of the major sponsors including, Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, Schroder Investments, Comcast Networks, Barclay's, United Electric Power, Lombardi Design, Group One, Sue & Sean McAuley, Weeden & Company, Declaration Management, Striano Electric, Dunkin' Donuts, Royal Coffee, Discount Tire, Michelin Tire, Emerging Global, the Heagerty Family Foundation and the NHL Foundation.

### **About the Companions in Courage Foundation**

The Companions in Courage Foundation was founded by former NHL star Pat LaFontaine as a response to the inspiration he derived while visiting children in hospitals during his 15-year career. The organization builds interactive playrooms in children's hospitals throughout North America. Through innovative communications tools, these playrooms replace the isolation of a hospital with a connection to family, friends and celebrities during their hospital stay. For more information, visit [www.CiC16.org](http://www.CiC16.org).

###