

## Pickleball Tournament Raises \$8,000 for Charity

By Andrea Scafidi Robertson

It's no secret among pickleball players that the game promotes camaraderie, wellness and a greater sense of community.

This is true down south in Biloxi, Mississippi, where pickleball has become a part of the fitness program as well as a charity fundraiser supported by first responders.

Biloxi firefighters began playing pickleball when they were invited by local players at indoor courts across the street from a fire station. The word spread quickly about the game and, as a result, pickleball is now included in the firefighters' fitness regimen and is played at seven of the nine stations in Biloxi.

Pickleball has ignited interest, from the city council and administrators to law enforcement officers, while promoting a friendly competitive spirit. Local players are teaching first responders the rules, strategies and skills to prepare them for competitive play. •



Top: The Guns & Hoses Charity Pickleball Tournament trophy was presented to the Hoses team.

Bottom: Biloxi police officers dressed patriotically to compete at the Guns & Hoses Charity Pickleball Tournament. Photos by Deonne Linenberger.