

Gary Higashi

Meritorious Service



Gary Higashi has more than 37 years of pro shop experience, with the last 29 years (as of 2019) serving bowlers of all levels in Las Vegas.

In 1982, Gary began his professional career with Pat John's Pro Shop in Skyway Park, Seattle, Washington. He also managed Pat John's Pro Shop at Hiline Lanes in Burien, Washington.

Moving to Las Vegas in 1990, Gary soon became Pro Shop Manager at the infamous Charleston Heights Bowling Center on Decatur Blvd. (now site of Arizona Charlie's Hotel & Casino) from September 1990 to December 1992.

Gary Higashi owns the distinction of being the first installer of the Milling Press System for drilling bowling balls in Las Vegas. Today, all pro shops in Las Vegas employ one or two Milling machines.

Venturing on his own, he opened Xllence Pro Shop in 1992, right up the street on Decatur Blvd., with a highly successful run for the better part of nine years.

In 2001, Gary went to work for Boyd Gaming at the Gold Coast Bowling Center in Las Vegas until 2008, and enjoyed the distinction of achieving the highest profit margins of all company pro shops for 8 consecutive years.

Gary also worked for 8 1/2 years as Manager of the Virgin River Bowling Center in Mesquite, Nevada. While with that company, Gary was instrumental in overseeing the success of the 2016 SNUSBCA Senior Tournament, which enjoyed a 98% capacity for the entire event at Virgin River Lanes.

During his tenure at Virgin River, Gary served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Monday Night Football League and the prestigious PBA Experience League.