

2013 President's Award
Butch Butler, PGA
Dick's Sporting Goods – Lexington Park, Maryland

Ralph Jackson "Butch" Butler, Jr. was born on September 30, 1952 to Jane and Jack Butler, a military family stationed at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station in Southern Maryland. When he was just an infant, Butch, his parents and his sisters, Harriet (Brunner) and Lark (Willis), moved to Trinidad in the West Indies then to Brockton, Massachusetts where at the age of 7, he was introduced to the game of golf by his father. Before settling in one place for too long, the Butlers shipped off to Newfoundland, Canada; Guam; and San Diego, California before returning to Southern Maryland.

While in Southern California, at the age of 13, Butch began playing golf in earnest and was encouraged by his mother to continue improving in the game after the divorce of his parents. The latter half of Butch's teenage years was spent in Great Mills, Maryland where he attended Great Mills High School and played on the boys' golf team. With a taste for better weather and memories of surfing in the Pacific, he headed back to California after high school and continued to play amateur golf before deciding to make it his career.

In 1975, Butch turned professional and started his first position as an assistant at Wicomico Shores Golf Club in Chaptico, Maryland. He quickly moved over to Breton Bay Golf and Country Club in Leonardtown, Maryland to work under PGA Professional Kent Sasher until the start of the golf season in 1977. At that time, he took an assistant position under Ellsworth Franklin, PGA at Cedar Point Golf Course in Patuxent River, Maryland. Three seasons were spent at Cedar Point before Butch accepted a position working under MAPGA Hall of Famer Charles T. Bassler, PGA at the former Indian Spring Country Club (Silver Spring, Md.). Beginning in 1980, he spent the next three seasons working at the former Shannon Green Golf Course (Fredericksburg, Va.) under Chuck Bassler, PGA, and earned his PGA Membership in 1983. He would go on to work one season each at the University of Maryland Golf Course (College Park, Md.) for Ron Scales, PGA and then at Chevy Chase Club (Chevy Chase, Md.) for Ward Burgess, PGA.

Butch's first head professional position came in 1986 when he returned to his old stomping grounds of Cedar Point Golf Course at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. During his time at Cedar Point, he developed a renowned junior golf camp that not only taught children essential golf skills, but also helped them earn golf scholarships or enter military academies. Under Butch's supervision, Cedar Point was selected numerous times as the #1 military golf course in the world and in 1991 the PGA of America recognized Butch as a member of the President's Council for growing the game of golf.

With a strong military background, Butch has made a commitment to support those men and women who have sacrificed for their country. For 15 years at Cedar Point, he offered free golf clinics to military personnel. He also supports the Wounded Warrior Project and regularly participates in golf outings that help recovering and disabled Veterans find joy through the game of golf.

In 2011, Butch accepted his current position with Dick's Sporting Goods in Lexington Park, Maryland. In that same year, he was selected to serve as the Middle Atlantic PGA's Tournament Committee Chairman and continues to hold that position with the MAPGA Board of Directors. Butch has concentrated on maintaining the traditions of certain tournaments while at the same time working to increase participation in all events. The opinions that revolve around MAPGA tournaments are diverse and challenging at times, yet Butch has led the Committee to make changes and establish policies that focus on the best interests of all MAPGA Professionals.

Married since 1992, Butch and his wife BethAnne Caccivio met while he was at Cedar Point. She works for the Department of Defense as a Contracting Officer specifically focused on procuring Tomahawk Missiles and other major weapons systems. The couple enjoys traveling internationally in their spare time and also share joy in spending time with their nieces and nephews.