

**Michael N. Cumberpatch**  
*Middle Atlantic Golf Association, USGA Rules Official*

Michael was born on November 5, 1952 in Los Angeles, California. Number three of seven children, he grew up in a military family. His father, James, is 86 and lives in Edgewater, Md. His mother, Mary O., died in 1988. Two brothers live in Annapolis, one lives in Cambridge, and the youngest lives in Rockville. His sister lives in Kensington. Mike's youngest brother, Joe, is a regular competitor in Special Olympics Golf and has competed in the Special Olympics National Invitational and Special Olympics National Olympic Games. His oldest brother James, Jr., served in the U.S. Army as a combat medic, but tragically was killed in Vietnam in 1966.

Mike's father graduated from the U. S. Military Academy at West Point on June 6, 1944. He flew bombers and fighters and retired from the U. S. Air Force in 1968 with the rank of Colonel. The family moved frequently before settling in the Washington, DC area in 1960; first in Bethesda, then in Kensington. His dad was about a 12 handicap and could shoot 80, or just as easily a 95. Mike's mom sported a single digit handicap and was a fierce competitor, winning eight club championships. She refused to practice from bunkers as she said she never got in them. His mom's father was also a fine player who once played golf with the Prince of Wales. A golf club that the Prince gave his grandfather was his mom's first club and Mike still has it in his collection. He collects Ben Hogan irons and has about 20 sets dating back to 1958.

Mike's mom and grandfather were the ones who got him started playing golf when he was four years old. He grew up on the old Sherwood Forest Golf Club 9-hole course, just outside of Annapolis, which still has its sand putting greens. As a youngster, he played a lot of golf on the very nice 9-hole Navy Hospital Golf Course which used to encircle the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda. The first 18-hole golf course he played was the "new" South Sherwood Forest Golf Club which was located up the Severn River from Annapolis. Ed Graefe, the PGA club professional, leased the land and operated the club. Ed and his son George E. Graefe III, an MAPGA member, were important early influences on Mike and deserve much of the credit for his sticking with the game.

Mike and his wife, Lynn, have been married for 18 years. They met on the Naval Academy golf course and have two children: Kate who is 13 and in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Severn River Middle School, and Chris, who is 11 and in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at the Naval Academy Primary School. Kate is President of the student government and plays little league softball; Chris plays little league baseball and the position of shortstop like Derek Jeter. Mike is a volunteer with the Broadneck Baseball and Softball Club and tried his hand at coaching little league for the first time last spring. Both children like to hit balls on the range and have started getting out onto the golf course. Mike has lived in the Annapolis area since 1971.

Mike is a frequent competitor (not a frequent winner!) in Middle Atlantic Golf Association (MAGA) and Maryland State Golf Association (MSGA) championships. Partnered with Larry Ringer, PGA, he won the MSGA Pro-Am (formerly called the Pro-Scratch) in 1987 and 1988. Mike competed in the USGA Mid-Amateur Championship and Canadian Amateur in 1984. He also competed in the British and Western Amateurs in 1978. He was the team captain and MVP of the American University Golf Team in 1976 where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree. Mike is a five time Club Champion at the Sherwood Forest GC, a four time Club Champion at the U.S. Naval Academy GC, and won the 1974 Maryland Junior College State Championship while at Anne Arundel Community College.

He has a long history of service...Mike has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Middle Atlantic Golf Association since 1992. He served as President in 2000, Executive Director from 2001 – 2002, and has been their Historian since 2002.

Mike has been on the Regional Affairs Committee of the USGA since 1993. Since 1998 he has been the Official-in-Charge of the Sectional Qualifier for the U.S. Open. He also assists with numerous USGA qualifiers in Maryland. Since 1997, Mike has been a volunteer on the Rules Committee at numerous U.S. Opens and U.S. Senior Opens, assigned with the task of escorting NBC-TV on-course television crews. He assisted the Special Olympics of Maryland with their state championship and rules education in 2008.

Mike has served on the Board of the U.S. Naval Academy Golf Course since 1983, was the President of the Naval Academy Men's Association from 1985-1986 and 1989-1991, and was instrumental in having Navy join the MSGA and the MAGA. Mike officiates at and marks the golf course for major events at the U.S. Naval Academy GC to include the USGA Junior Amateur Qualifier, spring and fall Intercollegiate Naval Academy Tournaments, and the Patriot League Championship.

Since 1998, Mike has collected more than 40,000 golf balls and a lot of golf clubs for inner city junior golf programs in the Washington, DC area as well as in Richmond and Philadelphia. In the fall of 2007, he changed the focus of his program and gathered over 8,000 golf balls for the troops in Iraq. This past winter Mike sent approximately 20,000 golf balls, donated primarily by members at Navy, to the 'Bunkers in Baghdad' program in Buffalo, for shipment to Iraq.

Mike's personal philosophy, and what he teaches his kids and those he coaches, is to "always try to do your best, be prepared (do your homework!), take care of those who need your help, and be loyal, truthful, honest, respectful, and fair. And finally, enjoy life, because it is shorter than you think."