

**James M. Percherke**

*FootJoy*

*Ashburn, Virginia*

To be recognized as Salesperson of the Year, one has to demonstrate outstanding service, support, and dedication to the members and apprentices of the MAPGA. Jim Percherke has been providing excellent service to PGA professionals for almost 25 years and has been instrumental in the relationship between FootJoy and the MAPGA. Jim, in particular, has been behind years of support for the Sections biggest tournament, the Middle Atlantic PGA Professional Championship.

Jim was born on August 30, 1969 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania to Nick (deceased) and Sally Percherke. He grew up as the youngest of four- older brothers Dennis and Mike and sister Marlene. When Jim was only five years old, his father got him involved in golf. Jim's father built him a green and bunker in their back yard along with a hitting net and mat. A few years later, Jim began competing in various junior tournaments in the Tri State PGA where his father would caddie for him. Spending time together as father and son helped shape Jim and he is forever grateful for the life lessons his dad taught him. Former PGA Professional Robert Strawn is also someone who had a major impact on Jim and helped improve his game as a junior golfer. Jim accomplished many feats as a junior golfer as he played on his high school golf team, won the District V Conference Championship in 1986 and won the CR Miller Match Play Championship at the Pittsburgh Field Club in 1987.

After high school, Jim attended Methodist College, now Methodist University, where he played on the golf team and won numerous awards. In 1990, he won two college tourneys individually, the Hargrove B. Davie Championship and the Dixie Conference Championship. However, the most important collegiate golf memory was being a member of the 1990 NCAA Division III National Championship team. Jim graduated from Methodist in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and went on to earn his M.B.A. from Providence College in 1992. His time at Methodist University was very special and Jim is grateful for the many people who helped him in so many ways while there. First, the Rev Michael Safley had a significant impact on Jim as his heart of Christ helped so many young people adjust to the college life and always took the time to be there in a time of need and crisis. Next, Steve Conley, who has been the golf coach at Methodist since Jim's first semester in 1987, helped mentor Jim and his fellow teammates on the golf team. Last but not least, Jim is grateful for the PGM director at Methodist University, Jerry Hogge, PGA. Jerry won the prestigious National Bill Strausbaugh award in 2002. Jim mentions that "without Mr. Hogge's leadership, guidance and heart to help me, I never would have been able to work for the Acushnet Company." All three of these individuals exhibit the "others focused" heart that enables them to find the strengths and weaknesses in every PGM student and help guide them to best fit the career path where they can excel.

Jim has been employed with the Acushnet Company, which is home of Titleist and FootJoy, since June 4, 1990, with Acushnet being recognized as one of the leading companies in the golf industry. Jim is very passionate about his career because he works for a company that understands and cares for him as well as Acushnet does for its employees. From the outside looking in, it is impossible for anyone to see the true heart of the Acushnet Company. Having been blessed to be employed by them for almost 25 years, it amazes him on the continued genuineness and loyalty their leadership has towards each and every employee. Knowing that each employee matters and is truly part of this common goal inspires Jim to be grateful for his job and motivates him to continue to grow and better himself, his service and the products he provides for this great game of golf.

Honesty, integrity, and accountability are just a few values Jim's father, a WWII veteran taught him. Each and every day Jim tries to honor those values in every area of his life. The game of golf has impacted Jim's life at various points and helped shape him into the person he is today. Golf taught Jim how to win, how to lose and how to make course corrections both on and off the golf course. He is grateful for all those who were there to support him and who continue to support this great game.

Jim and his fiancée Margaret Stanley live in Ashburn, Virginia. Jim has three children, Tyler (20), a sophomore at James Madison University; Lauren (18), a senior at Stone Bridge High School and Victoria (14), a freshman also at Stone Bridge High School. Jim has coached 29 different baseball and softball teams in the Ashburn area for his son and daughters.