

2018 David Wortman Citizen of the Year
Michael N. Cumberpatch

Michael's extensive work in local allied associations led to his selection for this award.

Michael was born on November 5, 1952 in Los Angeles, California. Number three of seven children (six boys and one girl), he grew up in a military family. 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. His grandfather 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 has it in his golf club collection.

Mike's mom and grandfather were the ones who introduced him to golf when he was four years old. He grew up playing on the old Sherwood Forest Golf Club 9-hole course, just outside of Annapolis, which still has its sand putting greens. He first played on grass putting greens on the 9-hole golf course which used to encircle the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda (formerly referred to as the Navy Hospital). The first 18-hole golf course he played was the South Sherwood Forest Golf Club which was located up the Severn River from Annapolis. Ed Graefe, Jr., the PGA club professional, leased the land and operated the club. Ed and his son George E. Graefe III, a former MAPGA golf professional, 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 27 years. They met on the Naval Academy golf course and have two children: Kate, 22, a recent graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland and Chris, a sophomore at the Anne Arundel Community College. Mike has lived in the Annapolis area since 1971.

Since taking the helm of the MAGA and WMGA he does not compete much and has watched his handicap index climb to an unacceptable level. Back in the day, he partnered with Larry Ringer, PGA, to win the MSGA Pro-Am 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 to the Game and amateur golf. Mike has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Middle Atlantic Golf Association since 1992. He served as President in 2000 and Executive Director from 2001 – 2002. Since January of 2016 he has served as the Executive Director of both the Middle Atlantic and Washington Metropolitan golf associations.

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 has assisted at 14 U. S. Opens and 5 U. S. Senior Opens. He has assisted the Special Olympics of Maryland with their state championship and rules education since 2008. Mike has served on the Board of the U.S. Naval Academy Golf Course since 1983 and supports the Naval Academy Women's and Men's Varsity golf teams with their home golf tournaments.

From 1998 to 2006 Mike collected more than 40,000 golf balls and hundreds of golf clubs for inner city junior golf programs in Richmond, Philadelphia, and the Washington, DC. In the fall of 2007 the focus of his program changed and since then he has gathered nearly 100,000 golf balls and hundreds of clubs for our men and women in uniform. The balls and clubs have been shipped to Iraq, Afghanistan, and distributed locally to the Links to Freedom Foundation and Wounded Warriors.

In 2009, he was honored by the MAPGA with its David Wortman Citizen of the Year Award and was recognized by the Maryland General Assembly for contributions to the game. In 2014 he was honored by the USGA as the recipient of the Joseph C. Dey Award for meritorious service to the game as a volunteer and in 2017 received the USGA's Isaac B. Grainger Award signifying 25 years of volunteer service to the USGA.

Mike's personal philosophy, 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."