

Robert F. Dolan Jr., PGA
Columbia Country Club, Chevy Chase, Maryland

This award was named after the late "Coach" Bill Strausbaugh, the former Professional Emeritus at Columbia Country Club, whose efforts in this arena were both ground-breaking and significant. Ironically, in this year of his passing, the 1999 recipient of this award is his successor, **Robert F. Dolan, Jr.**, head professional at Columbia Country Club in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Bob counsels fellow professionals on a regular basis with regard to their employment, job search, resume and contract, and he has assisted numerous facilities in their efforts to hire PGA professionals. Bob recognizes that education is the key to improving employment conditions for our members and has actively worked promoting PGA education in the section. He has given numerous seminars on how to prepare for job interviews and how to develop necessary skills to be considered by prospective employers. Many assistants seek his guidance and advice, and he has conducted seminars for the APA as well as for other sections. Bob's commitment to his profession and his fellow golf professionals is reflected in his history of service to his association. He has served and/or chaired many section committees, been a member of the Central Chapter Board of Directors since 1994 and is currently serving on the MAPGA Board of Directors as section Secretary. In 1996 Bob received the President's Award, and in 1997 he was honored by his peers as the Golf Professional of the Year award. Bob also has a passion for junior golf, and in 1998 he was named the MAPGA's Junior Golf Leader.

Bob grew up in Long Island, New York. His parents, Bob and MaryAnn Dolan were very supportive of their children offering encouragement at every opportunity. Bob's father taught him to play golf when he was 10 years old. As a young man, Bob participated in several team sports, but he was particularly drawn to golf because he realized that his success was dependent solely upon himself. He got his first golf-related job when he was 16 years old working at Fernway Driving Range under the tutelage of PGA golf professional, Luther Showaker. Bob declared his professional status in 1982, entered the PGA Apprentice program in 1983, and was elected to membership in 1987. He worked at Hidden Valley Resort in Somerset, Pennsylvania from 1987 to 1992, before moving on to Lakewood Country Club in Rockville, MD. Bob stayed at Lakewood for three years before he succeeded the legendary Coach Strausbaugh at Columbia Country Club in 1995.

Bob's unfailing commitment to his profession is surpassed only by his commitment to his family. He and his wife, Dawn, have been married for fourteen years, and have two children, Bobby and Shannon.