

***Quinlan J. Sullivan, PGA***  
*Springfield Golf and Country Club, Springfield, Virginia*

Born to Catherine and Walter Sullivan of Staten Island, New York in early 1944, Quin and his brothers, Walter and Brian, and sister Carol were all non-golfers. In 1957, Quin and his brother heard that they could make money by caddying at the South Shore Country Club. They hitchhiked to the club and were hired immediately. They soon learned that they could make even more money if they could “read putts, carry doubles, and do a double loop.” Quin was instantly infatuated with the game of golf and gave up baseball to begin his quest to learn the secrets of golf. Allie Russo, Head Golf Professional at South Shore CC took an interest in “Quinny” giving him a set of used clubs and a few lessons. He became Quin’s first mentor. Before long, Quin moved in with Allie and his wife for the summer so that he could spend all his time working at the driving range, around the Pro Shop, practicing, caddying and playing whenever he was allowed on the course. High School saw Quin winning just about every title available. He won the Staten Island Amateur in 1965, and was runner-up to Jim Albus in 1966. Quin was also the 1967 New York Metropolitan Champion.

In 1968, Quin finally decided he wanted to put his degree from CCNY in Business Administration to work by becoming a Professional Golfer. He worked for Hank Majewski at Allview GC in Columbia, Maryland and then moved on to work for Tom Gipe at Fort Meade Golf Course in Laurel, Maryland. He was elected to The PGA of America in 1971 and quickly was chosen as the Head PGA Professional at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Country Club in Frederick, Maryland. In January of 1977, Quin was chosen to be the Head PGA Professional and Director of Golf at Springfield Golf & Country Club in Springfield, Virginia, where he continues to dedicate himself to helping his membership enjoy the game of golf. He has adopted the highest standards of tournament operations, professional shop merchandising, and golf cart management.

Through the years, Quin has served on many Middle Atlantic PGA committees, both as a member and as chair. He was a Regional Vice President of the MAPGA from 1980 to 1983 and was selected as the MAPGA Merchandiser of the Year in 1986. For his dedication and work for the MAPGA he was honored with the prestigious President’s Award in 1997. Quin has also been active as a PGA Seminar Instructor on numerous occasions and currently serves on the Career Coaches Committee and the EZ Go Textron advisory panel. In addition to many years of hosting the Washington Capitals Charity Golf Tournament, which raises over \$200,000 in a one-day event at Springfield Golf & CC, Quin has been the host to the nationally known Bobby Bowers Memorial Junior Tournament, which is now in its 34<sup>th</sup> year. The tournament is unique in that it is match play over four days with all the amenities of a PGA Tour event. Many current and prominent PGA, PGA Tour, and LPGA Tour members have competed in the tournament over the years. Each year \$10,000 in scholarship money is awarded to participants of the tournament and to local high schools. The event that is nearest and dearest to Quin’s heart though, is the yearly clinic and golf tournament that he organizes each year at the United States Soldiers and Airmen’s Home in Washington, D.C. Quin became affiliated with this event in 1983 through Fred King, the beloved Head PGA Professional at Andrews Air Force Base who was another of Quin’s mentors. After Fred’s death in 1992, Quin took on the mantle of this event, which is supported by many MAPGA Professionals who go to the Home for a clinic and round of golf with the retired service members. There is no better reward than to meet and talk to the men and women who have served our country with great honor and to be able to bring them some small moments of happiness.

In addition to Allie Russo and Fred King, Quin credits many dedicated PGA professionals for whatever success he has enjoyed. Among his many mentors are John Haines, Bob Toski and Bill Strausbaugh. Each of these men took Quin under his wing giving him sound advice, encouragement and critiques when necessary. Each took the time to answer his endless questions on the golf swing. Many hours were spent in happy debate on the best way to hit a golf ball and what were the best teaching methods of the day.

“Coach” Bill Strausbaugh, was especially patient with Quin’s inquiring mind. He would invite Quin to Columbia Country Club to let Quin observe him giving lessons. On more than one occasion Bill graciously agreed to give teaching clinics or to appear as an honored guest speaker at a VFW or a Springfield Golf & CC club event. Bill set the standard for generosity always taking the time to share his love and knowledge of the game of golf with anyone who was eager to learn.

With the example and guidance of such extraordinary PGA professionals, Quin, over time, developed his own style. From those who know Quin best, they would sum up his philosophy of life and golf something like this: Follow your dreams by finding something that you love to do and then work hard at it to become the best that you can be. Don’t just wait for something to happen, make it happen! Believe in yourself, take a few chances, make a few mistakes, admit when you are wrong, and never compromise your integrity. Make time to enjoy life with your family and be grateful for whatever blessings are bestowed upon you. Thirty-seven years in the golf business has given Quin the opportunity to employ, to know, and to share the lives of many people. Taking life one day at a time, doing small deeds with great passion, Quin has had the privilege to share the lessons that he has learned with others and to believe in the abilities of others, just as his mentors believed in him. A shared love of golf, a strong work ethic, the belief that no one is perfect but that everyone can be better tomorrow than you are today, were the essential elements that brought out the best in others. Quin was able to plant small seeds, nurture these seeds, and then watch them grow, through their own efforts, into beautiful people.

Quin and his wife Patty have been married for 42 years. Patty helps out by managing the Professional Shop at Springfield Golf & CC. They are the proud parents of two grown sons, Bob and Jim, in-laws to two wonderful daughters, and gleeful grandparents of six rambunctious grandchildren.