

Thomas C. Smith Jr., PGA
Army Navy Country Club, Fairfax, Virginia

Tommy was born November 21, 1958 in Glen Cove, Long Island, New York to Thomas C. & Florence Smith. He has three brothers, Michael, William, and Kevin. Tommy's father was extremely active as a Boy Scout Troop Leader and his mother was involved with the America Legion Auxiliary as well as being a 4H Club Leader & Girl Scout Leader. Tommy's grandparents, William and Agnes Yannotti were very supportive, encouraging and influential in Tommy's life. His grandfather played one year of professional baseball for the Boston Braves. Tommy's grandmother was in the first Girl Scout Troop ever formed and was very active in the American Legion Auxiliary where she received many awards during her service. They both led by example and were involved with many community service programs. Tommy's grandparents taught him to always do his best plus a little more. They instilled him with integrity, trust and loyalty; and encouraged him to follow his dreams. Golf just happened to be one of those dreams.

Tommy has met so many wonderful, caring and giving PGA golf professionals and has had many mentors along the way. At the age of 12, he began his golf career at the Mill River Club in Upper Brookville, New York. Tommy was an outstanding caddie and had several members who he caddied for on a regular basis. One such gentleman was Lew Mattiace, father of PGA Tour Player Lenny Mattiace. On weekends, Tommy would caddy for Lew and his three sons, Kenny, Bobby, and Little Lenny. This is where Tommy started to learn how to play golf. By Lew encouraging him to hit a few shots during the round, Tommy was hooked on golf. While in high school, Tommy was captain of both the high school football team and the high school golf team. In 1976, he was named to the All Division and All County football team as well as the All Division and Long Island Golf teams. Tommy's senior year played a big role in where he is today. In the annual Long Island Senior All Star football game, Tommy suffered a career ending knee injury which caused him to lose his college football scholarship. After that, Tommy attended the New York Institute of Technology and majored in Business Administration. In the spring of 1977, Tommy met his first mentor, PGA Professional Bob Weber of the Mill River Club. Bob was just beginning his first season there as Head PGA Professional when Lew Mattiace introduced him to Tommy. Shortly thereafter, Tommy was asked to assist with running the bag storage. Within a year, he was promoted to a golf shop assistant. In 1980, Tommy was caddying for Bob in a Pro-Am when he met PGA Professional Larry Laoretti from Pine Hollow Country Club. Larry mentioned to Bob that he was looking for a second assistant, and Bob, knowing that it was time for Tommy to advance, recommended that Larry hire him. So in May of 1980, Tommy began a lifelong friendship with his new mentor. In the spring of 1981, Larry suggested that Tommy join The PGA and become an apprentice. During his apprenticeship he became active in the Metropolitan Section Assistant's Association, and served as the Long Island Area's Vice President. He gained valuable experience while working for Larry. In the winter of 1983, Tommy moved to Florida to take an assistant's position at the Ben Sutton Golf School for Seniors in Sun City Center, Florida. That summer, he was offered the first assistant's position at Sun City Center Golf and Racquet Club under PGA Professional Norman Francis. Norm encouraged Tommy to gain knowledge about agronomy. He also worked for the Director of Golf Course operations, Dan Morgan, where he learned about maintaining the golf course. That summer, Tommy was asked to teach the new shop attendant, Jill Caswell, about the golf business and how to play golf. He got to like Jill so much that in 1985 they were married on Masters weekend; her choice because this was the first tournament they had watched together. Jill is Tommy's best friend and number one fan, and has always motivated and been supportive of him.

In 1988 Tommy became a PGA Member. In 1990, he became the Head PGA Professional at the River Club in Bradenton, Florida. In 1993, Tommy was asked to become the General Manager/Head PGA Professional at Palmetto Pines Country Club in Palmetto, Florida. In 1995, Tommy came to the Middle Atlantic Section to work for now Past Section President, Bob Baldassari as his first assistant. One of

Tommy's duties was to teach on the Original Golf School staff. In 1996, he became the General Manager/Head PGA Professional at Brantwood Golf Club, and in 1998 he was reunited with another of his lifelong friends from the Metropolitan Section, Kevin Anderson, PGA Director of Instruction at Woody's Golf Range. Kevin introduced Tommy to Woody Fitzhugh, PGA, the owner. He not only looks at Woody as a mentor in the golf business, but also as a spiritual mentor, and a very close friend. Tommy continues to teach at Woody's part time and to this day is still considered one of Woody's best instructors.

In 2000, Tommy met and worked for Frank and Shelley Ferguson as an assistant at Montgomery Country Club where he became extremely active in the Special Olympics. Tommy did such an outstanding job that he was hired as General Manager/Head PGA Professional at Green Castle Greens, Pennsylvania. Later, he came back to the area and decided to continue to work part time at Woody's and full time at Dick's Sporting Goods in Sterling, Virginia as their PGA Professional. In 2005, Tommy wanted to return to work at a private facility and was hired as the Director of Junior Golf by Greg Scott, PGA Director of Golf at Army Navy Country Club. In a little over six months, he revived a junior program into one of the premier junior golf programs in the Middle Atlantic Section with over 300 juniors actively involved at the club. In 2008, Tommy was named to the Top 50 Junior Instructors in the country by US Kids Golf Company.

During Tommy's tenure as an assistant PGA professional, he has served as the Assistant Professional Association President along with several other positions. He is currently serving on the MAPGA Board as the Central Chapter President. Tommy has always worked hard to make the association better and for this, he was awarded the MAPGA's President's Award in 2004. Tommy's motto has always been and will always be, *"Ask not what The PGA can do for me, but ask what more can I do for The PGA?"*