

DAVID WORTMAN CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

This award bestows special recognition on an outstanding amateur, recognized by the MAPGA and the business community as a leader in his/her field, whose contributions to golf in the mid-Atlantic region include the promotion of the game, the Middle Atlantic Section and its PGA Professionals, and overall support of MAPGA programs and golf throughout the region. This award is named in honor of the late David Wortman, Esq., Section Legal Counsel from 1971-1988 and honorary member of the MAPGA.

Patrick Morrissette
MAPGA Rules Volunteer
North Beach, Maryland

Patrick Morrissette was born on August 24, 1951 in Carlisle, Pa to the late Charles J. Morrissette and Mary K. Morrissette. He was one of five children, with Michael, Kevin, Mary and Lisa being the other siblings. Patrick travelled extensively as a child as his father was active-duty Air Force. He was lucky enough to live in Hawaii and Puerto Rico where he was introduced to the game of golf. At the age of 9, Patrick would follow his older brother Mike to the Ft. Buchanan Golf Course in Puerto Rico as Mike worked in the halfway house at the course. As Mike was working, Patrick would chip and putt the day away, thus beginning his fascination with the game. His father's tour in Puerto Rico ended and the family was transferred to the suburban Maryland area when his dad was assigned to Andrews AFB as the NCOIC of Base Operations. That is where he met three individuals who would cement his passion for the game. The staff at the golf club consisted of Fred King, PGA, George Pigott, PGA and Larry Gray, PGA who all immediately took a liking to the young man lurking around the pro shop. His dad would drop Patrick off at the golf course on his way to work, give him 2 bucks for lunch and admonish him not to gamble with any player's wearing black shoes and carrying a one iron as he was sure to lose. He didn't listen, often losing his lunch money. It was there he would spend his summer days picking the range, picking up trash and any other odd jobs they would have him do so he could play for free. His passion for golf continued as he entered Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, Md. from where he graduated in 1969. Numerous attempts were made by Patrick to make the Varsity Golf Team to no avail. The team was loaded with talent, most notably Chris Pigott, George's son who would win the Maryland Open and spend some time on the PGA Tour. The best Patrick could do was to be an alternate for his junior and senior years.

Upon graduation from high school, Patrick attended Prince George's Community College, Alvernia College and The Johns Hopkins University before deciding on a career in law enforcement. On a side note, one of Patrick's professors at PGCC was Dr. Harold Guy, the section's historian.

Patrick joined the Prince George's County Police Department in 1971, and was told by his superiors at the time, at the age of 23, that he was the youngest detective ever on the department. He spent time in the Property Crimes Division as well as temporary assignments in Vice Control and the Fugitive Task Force. In 1980, Patrick was transferred to the Special Operations Division where he was trained to be one of four original hostage negotiators on the department. Over 150 incidents were handled by the unit during Patrick's assignment. During that time in SOD, Patrick was also one of three officers who trained negotiators from many local law enforcement agencies. His unit was even featured on a ***60 Minutes*** episode which was hosted by Diane Sawyer. He remained in that unit until his retirement in 1989 due to a work-related back injury that he suffered making an arrest at The Capital Centre during a rock concert. That retirement led to his ongoing 32-year career as a very successful realtor with Century 21, NW Millennium where he currently serves as a supervisory broker of the Annapolis branch.

In 1986, Patrick started the Alumni Association at Bishop McNamara HS and organized the very first Alumni Golf Tournament, which now is a major fundraiser for the school. In 1988, Patrick received a phone call from Bob Gossin, then the school's athletic director, asking if he would become the Varsity Golf Coach, to which Patrick agreed. After a 15-year stint as the golf coach at Bishop McNamara, Patrick was lured away by Bob Fretwell, PGA to become the golf coach at St. Mary's High School in Annapolis, Md., where he remained until his retirement in 2017. During his coaching career his teams won three league titles with many of his players receiving golf scholarships to schools such as Jackson State, North Carolina A & T, Methodist University, Roanoke College, Ohio Wesleyan, Coastal Carolina, and Towson University. His favorite saying to his athletes has always been, "If you cheat at golf, you will cheat at life".

In the 1990s, Patrick served as a marshal for many years at the Kemper Open at Avenel. Then in the early 2000s, Patrick was asked by Larry Laubscher, the Chairman of the Booz Allen Kemper PRO-AM Committee to announce the professionals and amateurs on the first tee of the tournament, a position he held for 5 years.

When he officiated a high school golf tournament in 2002, without any formal training in the Rules of Golf, Patrick made an incorrect ruling. As a result of that, Patrick decided that if he was going to officiate, he better get proper training. He immediately attended the USGA/PGA Rules of Golf seminar in Far Hills, NJ and upon completion of that training received a phone call from Dick Johns, then the Executive Director of MAPGA. Johns asked if he would be interested in working with the MAPGA. He agreed and for the past 18 years has been a Rules Official working numerous professional and junior tournaments for the Middle Atlantic Section of the PGA.

While his amateur golf accomplishments have been modest, winning the Match Play Club Championship at Renditions Golf Club, several league titles at The Cannon Club and finishing runner up twice at the Men's Member Guest (it's impossible to beat Tom Winegardner) at the Cannon Club, his passion has not waned. He thoroughly enjoys playing golf at his home club, The Cannon Club in Lothian, Md

Patrick is married to his beautiful wife Sherry and between the two of them, have 5 sons, nine grandchildren and one great grandchild. They reside in the community of Holland Point in North Beach, Md.