

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

This award bestows special recognition on an individual whose tireless effort, unwavering dedication, and exceptional contributions to the game of golf resulting in significant benefit to the Middle Atlantic Section, its members and associates, and to the entire golf community. The Section President personally selects the outstanding recipient of this award.

Joan Lovelace, PGA, LPGA
Hobbits Glen & Fairway Hills Golf Clubs
Columbia, Maryland

The MAPGA President, Lynne Hunter, personally selects this President's Award winner to recognize an individual who has been working "under the radar," to improve our game, our industry, and our Association. Ms. Hunter has identified Joan Lovelace, PGA, LPGA for her endless support of the Section, her fellow PGA professionals, and the advancement of the game of golf.

A native of Ellicott City, Md, Lovelace boasts over 40 years of experience teaching golf at all levels of play, while serving as an accomplished golf business leader. A member of both the PGA of America and LPGA, Lovelace is one of only 200 golf professionals nationwide to hold the dual membership distinction.

A lifelong golfer who was introduced to the game by her parents who were avid players, Lovelace's talent led her to make the Men's Varsity Golf Team at Howard High School in Ellicott City, where in 1975 she became the first female in Howard County (MD) to play a men's varsity sport. In fact, she played all four years at Howard HS as the number one or two position on the men's golf team.

Lovelace began her golf career in 1983 at Hobbit's Glen Golf Club. She became an Assistant Professional in 1984, where she learned all facets of the business operation, from running tournaments to teaching, managing the golf shop and much more. During her tenure, she became a member of the LPGA in 1995 and a member of the PGA of America in 2001. She went on to become the General Manager at both facilities in 2004, where she remained for 18 years. In 2022, Joan transitioned to her "dream job" as a full time Director of Instruction at both courses.

A longtime, dedicated golf and business leader, Lovelace has earned numerous awards and accolades throughout her career, including 2012 when she was inducted into the Howard County Women's Hall of Fame, which is an honor given to those who play a varsity sport and give back to their community in their sport. In 2019, she was named the LPGA Northeast Section "Professional of the Year" award. Lovelace has held numerous board and association positions, and currently serves as an advisor to the Howard County High School golf program.

Lovelace has three children, Kevin, Matt, Brian, and four grandchildren. She currently resides in Ellicott City, Md., with her wife Barb Van Winkle.