

*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.*

**Dr. Kendy K. Vierling, LPGA**  
*Links to Freedom Volunteer*  
*Lorton, Virginia*

Kendy Vierling grew up in Arizona playing golf and other sports with her sister, Alissa. She was introduced to the game of golf by her father who was a recreational golfer and began playing competitive golf at the age of twelve. She and her sister were fortunate that their parents were supportive of them playing sports and they spent their free time in childhood traveling to play in golf and soccer tournaments.

Vierling received her Bachelor of Arts degrees in Psychology and Advertising from Southern Methodist University and her Masters in Exercise Science from Arizona State University. Vierling then earned her Ph.D. in Exercise Science from Arizona State University, where she focused on social psychological and psychophysiological factors of human performance.

Vierling's first job in the golf industry was on the ASU coaching staff as the Manager/Graduate Assistant for a few years, and Assistant Coach of the Arizona State University (ASU) Women's Golf Team for a year. There she was able to pursue graduate degrees; learn about coaching, golf instruction, golf operations such as hosting tournaments, teach undergraduate human performance-related academic courses, and conduct human performance-related research. During her last year assisting the ASU Women's Golf Team, her sister became a member of the team. Vierling remarked at how special that time was, as it was exciting to see her sister develop as a player and be able to support her.

The team's sport psychologist, Dr. Debbie Crews, was an ASU faculty member, researcher, and an experienced LPGA instructor who mentored Vierling. Crews encouraged her to become a golf professional, apply to become a member of the LPGA, and helped her navigate the LPGA certification process. In addition to Dr. Crews, other individuals Vierling credits with guiding her through her golf development include Cathy Marino, who was her college golf coach at Southern Methodist University, and many other LPGA and PGA professionals who have taught her so much. Within the PGA, Steve Greiner, Colonel Dick Johns (USA, Ret), and Alan Smith have all been mentors. She highlights how much she has enjoyed working with them for many years to implement a positive, professional adaptive golf instruction program to aid injury rehabilitation for wounded Service Members, disabled veterans, their families, and caregivers.

Since 2008, Vierling has served as a Golf Instructor, Links to Freedom / Fort Belvoir Wounded Warrior Golf Program.