

**Weekly Golf Article – Final Article for 2017**  
**By Joe Tesori, PGA**

ANOTHER SEASON IS NEARLY COMPLETE AND IN THE RECORD BOOKS AND I FOR ONE AM NOT READY TO SAY GOOD-BYE. OH YES, THERE HAVE BEEN MORE CURVE BALLS THROWN MY WAY HEALTH WISE, BUT A SURVIVOR CARRIES ON, LINGERS ON, AND CONTINUES TO MOVE ON.

MY PASSIONS ARE MANY, I TEND TO WEAR MY EMOTIONS ON MY SLEEVE FOR EVERYONE TO SEE, AND I HAVE EVER FELT THE NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR THAT. I HAVE WON MANY GOLF TOURNAMENTS, PLAYED IN FRONT OF 20 THOUSAND SPECTATORS, OFFICIATED COLLEGIATE BASKETBALL BEFORE THE SAME AMOUNT OF FANS, COACHED AT THE HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGIATE LEVEL, AND TRAVELED MORE THAN ANY ONE SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO.

I HAVE BEEN A PGA MEMBER SINCE 1977, AND HAVE WORKED AT GREAT CLUBS MY ENTIRE CAREER... A LUCKY, LUCKY MAN. HAVING NEVER FELT THAT YOU DO YOUR WORK TO GET NOTORIETY, AGAIN, I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN TYPES OF EMPLOYMENT WHERE THE MEDIA IS A PHONE CALL AWAY (OR TEXT NOWADAYS), SO MY NAME HAS OFTEN BEEN ONE ASSOCIATED WITH THE LOCAL SPORTS SCENE, A POSITION THAT I MUST ADMIT I HAVE NOT SHIED AWAY FROM AND HAVE EMBRACED ON MOST OCCASIONS.

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, I WAS NOTIFIED THAT I WAS BEING NOMINATED INTO THE PGA NATIONAL HALL OF FAME, PERHAPS THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS HONOR A GOLF PROFESSIONAL CAN ACHIEVE. I WILL JOIN FEELOW CNY MEMBER AND GOOD FRIEND MIKE DOCTOR AND UNION ENDICOTT HIGH SCHOOL TEAMMATE JIM MRVA INTO THIS HALLOWED HALL.

A GOOD FRIEND ASKED ME WHILE WE WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A PRO-AM EVENT WEEKS AGO... "SO HOW DOES IT FEEL BEING ENSHRINED FOR BEING THE BEST AT WHAT YOU DO?" RARELY BEING UNABLE TO HAVE A RESPONSE TO ANY QUESTION THROWN MY WAY.... I HAD NO ANSWER AND HONESTLY COULD NOT COME UP WITH ANY WORDS TO DESCRIBE MY EMOTIONS. MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN. MANY CALLS, LETTERS, AND TEXTS HAVE FOUND THEIR WAY TO MY ATTENTION, AND I HAVE BEEN HUMBLLED BEYOND DESCRIPTION.

WE DO NOT CHOOSE TO WORK 80 HOUR WEEKS, MATCH COMPETITORS SELLING PRICES, CONTINUE TO COACH THAT GUY WHO GETS THE SHANKS EVERY THREE WEEKS, AND MISS YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL PLAY BECAUSE OF A GOLF COMMITTEE MEETING FOR ACCOLADES, OR FOR INFLATED WAGES, BUT BECAUSE WE LOVE OUR GAME AND ALL IT ENTAILS.

MARRIAGES HAVE DISSOLVED, ALCOHOL AND OTHER VAGARIES OF THE SOUL HAVE EMBRACED MANY OF OUR PEERS, AND PEOPLE OF TRUST HAVE SIGNED OFF ON OUR WALKING PAPERS. YES, GOLF IS A BUSINESS ALSO, COMPLETE IN

ITS INFINITESIMAL VALLEYS THAT DRIVE US TO THE LEDGE AND ITS CIRCUITOUS HIGHS THAT BRING US BACK TO ANSWER THE NEXT MORNING'S 6AM DOOR OPENING.

MY LIFE HAS BEEN BLESSED... A GOOD MARRIAGE, WONDERFUL CHILDREN, CLOSE FRIENDS, AND A LIFESTYLE THAT HAS ALLOWED ME TRAVEL AND ENJOY MY PASSION OF THE GRAND GAME.

MY PARENTS TAUGHT ME LIFE VALUES AND MORALITIES, COMPLETE WITH A FAITH THAT HAS HELPED ME OVERCOME MANY OF MY SHORTCOMINGS AND DOUBTS.

**BUT, ALAS, OVER THE YEARS MY GOAL HAS CENTERED ON ONE IMPORTANT DIRECTIVE:** HELP OTHERS TO SMILE AND ENJOY THE GAME. PERHAPS MY LEGACY WILL BE THAT "HE CARED" AND THAT WOULD BE JUST FINE WITH ME.

THE CNY PGA HAS A FINE STABLE OF YOUNG PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE PREPARING TO BE OUR NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS IN THE GAME. GROW THE GAME INITIATIVES, MINORITY INVOLVEMENT, AND RECOGNIZING THAT WE NEED TO INVOLVE THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AS WELL AS OUR VETERANS, WILL NOT SEE FULFILLMENT IF WE DO NOT TAKE THAT FIRST STEP TO BE INVOLVED AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

ON NOVEMBER 2ND I WILL TAKE THAT STEP INTO THE PGA HALL, AND I WILL BE HUMBLE, ENERGIZED AND THANKFUL ALL AT ONCE. THANKFUL FOR THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED TO GUIDE ME, HUMBLER TO KNOW THAT SOMEONE TOOK NOTICE, AND ENERGIZED TO KEEP ON WITH MY MISSION TO HELP OTHERS AS BEST I CAN.

MY DAD ONCE TOLD A FRIEND OF HIS THAT HE THOUGHT I HAD DONE OK, AND THAT HE WAS MOST PROUD THAT I HAD CHOSEN TO COACH OTHERS TO ENJOY "OUR GAME".

DAD, MOM, IT WAS YOU WHO SHOWED ME THE LIGHT TO HAPPINESS WAS TO LOVE AND HELP THOSE WHO YOU DO NOT EXPECT ANYTHING FROM. I THINK I DID OK... BUT I CAN CONTINUE TO WORK HARDER AND DO BETTER... PEACE TO ALL... THANKS FOR ALL THAT YOU DO.