



children to have golfing opportunities, he won the support of the County Park Department and Black Women in Sports Association to fund a year-round golfing camp at Goulds Park in South Dade. He did all of this long before the "Tiger craze" became fashionable.

Alan's promotion of Junior Golf will never wane. He feels very strongly that Junior Golf is the cornerstone of golf's future success everywhere in the world.

If it sounds like I know Alan well and admire and respect him, you are correct. He hired me in 1978 to manage Key Biscayne, and from 1980 to 1990, I was his assistant, supervising golf and park maintenance operations. Like many others, I have learned some valuable lessons from him. I am proud to call him a true friend, and was honored to have had the opportunity to tell you about some of the major contributions he has made to the game we all love and earn our living through.

This quiet man with a dry, quick sense of humor, has touched so many lives through his twenty years of unselfish, dedicated commitment to the game in South Florida, it would take a book to list all he has accomplished. There no doubt that all of us in the profession owe Alan a huge debt of gratitude for all he has done and will continue to do in the future.

Cheers, Alan! Lets hoist a frosty mug to the game we love, your continued work, success and health.

Gary Grigg wins 1997 Distinguished Service Award

BY MIKE MONGOVEN, CGCS

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The FGCSA Distinguished Service Award was established in 1985 as a prestigious form of recognition for a deserving FGCSA superintendent. It is presented to a member who has performed outstanding achievements as a golf course superintendent. All three words — "Distinguished," "Service," and "Award" — have meaning for Gary Grigg.

Distinguished is certainly a word you can use to describe Grigg. He was president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, 1995-96. He has been a Certified Golf Course Superintendent since 1977 and has been recertified 4 times. His work at GCSAA has extended to 15 different committees. The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association certified him as a Master Greenkeeper in 1997. He is one of only 14 Master Greenkeepers in the world.

Service is really the most significant word of Distinguished Service Award that describes Gary. A review of Gary's life reveals that service is not only a function of his professional life, but his entire life.

He grew up in a small community with many relatives. The area had a high Mormon population. The environment was like an extended family where everyone helped everyone



Gary Grigg recipient of the FGCSA's 1997 Distinguished Service Award with his wife, Coleen and grandson, Alec.

else. Gary has continued this credo throughout all aspects of his life. Awards of many different types have been associated with Gary and courses he has worked for. The list of award-winning courses he has helped build and grow in include some of the best-known on golf's "Top 100" lists. He ranks his service (43 years) to the Boy Scouts of America and the Mormon Church (LDS) as his most enjoyable.

Two of his sons — Jared and Aaron — became Eagle Scouts. Gary enjoys the fundamental principles and ideals taught by Scouting. He is grounded in family values and community spirit stressed by his church.

His service to fellow golf course superintendents started in 1970 as a board member of the Western Michigan Golf Course Superintendents. Gary has served continuously as a director or officer of a golf course superintendents association for 27 consecutive years. He credits the "heritage of service" with which he was raised by his parents. Service to others was a virtue which was regarded highly by his parents.

While on the GCSAA board of directors he served with 18 different men for 9 years. He most enjoyed the camaraderie and the opportunity he had to meet people within our profession and allied organizations around the world.

While serving as president, he represented our profession, and the GCSAA membership.

Gary attributes much of his success to the support he has been given by his wife, Coleen, and their children Jared, Aaron, Jill, and Ryan. He has witnessed the requirements to succeed as a golf course superintendent shift to business knowledge with an emphasis on communication skills.

Golf course superintendents must be able to sell themselves and their value. The future of golf, according to Gary, is in the hands of the plant breeders. The demand for grasses that require less water & fertility, handle more salt, and become more hardy, will only grow.

Gary Grigg is very deserving of the FGCSA's highest award. His service to our profession has truly been distinguished.