

# Farewell to Al Bertucci

*Editor's Note: Paul composed the following short and eloquent tribute.  
He also submitted obituary information furnished courtesy of Al's brother, Bruno.*

*On August 26, Alfred J. Bertucci, the last of the great Italian superintendents from the city of Highwood, passed away. This legendary group also included:*

- Emil Mashi
- Frank Dinelli
- Dominic Grotti
- Bill Saielli
- “Butch” Bernardini
- Adolph Bertucci

*Devoted to his calling, Al often worked seven days a week, rising before sunrise and working until the last golfer entered the clubhouse at sunset.*

And now, finally, the last of this sterling group—Alfred J. Bertucci—has departed. We will not see their like again. They were our friends, teachers and advisors before there were computers; before automatic irrigation; before laptops and Internet; before . . . PDI. Hell, before almost everything. In their day, there was very little agronomic science. Their forte was the art of observation, trial-and-error and common sense. They did the best with what they had, and the turf was always in super condition. We owe them so much. So long, fellows, and rest in peace.

Sincerely,  
P.V.

**Alfred J. Bertucci, 84**

Born and raised in Highwood, Alfred “Al” Bertucci passed away Saturday, August 26 in Alpharetta, Georgia, after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Al attended Oak Terrace School in Highwood and graduated in 1934 from Deerfield Shields High School, now known as Highland Park High School. He was a stellar athlete who spent several years playing semiprofessional baseball and football; in 1938, he even tried out for the New York Giants baseball team.

During World War II, Al served under General George Patton in the 6th Armored Division; his was one of the first units to free prisoners at Buchenwald.


*(continued on page 26)*

Al then began a 50-year tenure as superintendent at Highland Park's Old Elm Club, where he oversaw every aspect of the course, from its flowers and trees to flagpoles and cups. Al's father, Elmer, had become Old Elm's first superintendent in 1913, and through the years, Al had worked closely with Elmer, absorbing the many facets of the golf business. Devoted to his calling, Al often worked seven days a week, rising before sunrise and working until the last golfer entered the clubhouse at sunset. "He had a love for maintaining the course and the challenge that went with it," remembers brother Bruno. "He loved to keep the course in excellent condition."

Al was a charter member (1945) of the Highwood Veterans of Foreign Wars as well as a long-time member of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. He and his wife of 61 years, Anne, retired to Alpharetta in 1996.

In addition to his wife, Al is survived by sons Gerry (Maria) of Alpharetta and Ronald (Peggy) of Omaha, Nebraska; grandchildren Chad, Todd, Ryan, Alan, Wendy and Michelle; brothers Bruno and Elmer, Jr.; and many other relatives and friends.

A wake was held Tuesday, August 29, with a funeral mass celebrated August 30 at Highwood's St. James Church. Burial was at Ascension Cemetery in Libertyville.

The MAGCS honors one of its outstanding comrades and extends warmest condolences to the Bertucci family. 

## *Migratory Bird Management*

Have Dogs Will Travel



Border Collies

### **GOOSE CONTROL**

Harold Frederickson

If we don't answer our phone

*we're on another wild goose chase*

**708-361-6772**



### **BOJO TURF SUPPLY INC.**

<b>AQUATROLS</b>	Aqueduct, Break Thru, Clean Carbon, Infiltrix, Primer
<b>BIO WORKS</b>	Turf Shield
<b>BIO TURF GRO</b>	True Foliar Feed Fertilizers
<b>EMERALD ISLE</b>	BioStimulants, Soil Amendments, Biologicals, Nutrients
<b>MILLIKEN</b>	Blazon, Mirage
<b>PSA</b>	Soil Amendants
<b>GRANULAR FERTILIZERS</b>	Lebanon Country Club, NXPro, ParEx
<b>PLANT PROTECTANTS</b>	Zeneca, Regal, Clearys
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	True Surface Vibratory Roller & Brush Systems
<b>TEE &amp; GREEN EQUIPMENT</b>	Accuform, ParAide, Standard

*Leaders in Service and Advanced Turfgrass Technology*

Website: [www.BTSIUSA.com](http://www.BTSIUSA.com) • e-mail: [info@BTSIUSA.com](mailto:info@BTSIUSA.com)

24356 HARVEST HILLS ROAD • FRANKFORT, IL 60423  
800-732-9401 • Fax: 815-469-8248