



The Good Samaritan

We speak often of being a Good Samaritan, but what defines this terminology? It is a widely used phrase that covers a broad category of acts that often occur in an instant. Laws have been passed to protect the Good Samaritan. The intent of these laws is to assure that someone who voluntarily undertakes to help an injured or suddenly ill person at the scene is not liable with any fault or legal responsibility for errors or omissions in the care rendered.

... I am not comparing what we do in our industry to those who risk their lives to rescue others. They are true heroes. But while we preserve the environment, bring enjoyment to our guests and members, and volunteer with the many activities that we are involved in, we also make a difference.

In the wake of a national crisis, it is with a heavy heart I write this column. How could an individual ever be held liable for coming to the aid of a person in need! I believe and hope this all changed on September 11, 2001, when we saw firsthand what true evil can accomplish. We witnessed more than 400 men and women rush to the aid of fellow Americans they had never met. Some trained in such capacity, some not. Good Samaritans with families, future and promise. Without regard for their own personal safety, they paid the ultimate price. This image has left a gaping hole in the fabric of our society. The truly amazing thing about Good Samaritans is that given the chance, they would do it again. This time, with more determination to make a difference than the first time. There is a passion that burns deep in the belly of an individual to perform this way.

When Tod Hopphan died suddenly last summer, we were all given a wake-up call as to how precious life is. We tried to prioritize our own existence and hopefully become better children of God, family members and employees. But as time passes, we forget these lessons and begin to take many of life's blessings for granted; this, unfortunately, is human nature.

The difference between Monday and Tuesday that week in September is really the silver lining in this tragedy. On Monday, people went to work as usual at the World Trade Center . . . on Tuesday, many walked in the door for the last time. On Monday, people fought against praying in schools . . . on Tuesday, you would have been hard-pressed to find a school where someone was not praying. On Monday, people argued with their kids about picking up their room . . . on Tuesday, those people could not get home fast enough to hug their kids. On Monday, people were trying to separate each other by race, sex, color or creed . . . on Tuesday, they were holding hands. On Monday, we hailed entertainers and athletes as heroes . . . on Tuesday, we learned the true meaning of what hero

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meant, what it is to be a Good Samaritan. I for one am looking at every sunrise a little different since September 11. I hope and pray that will continue forever.

I would like to think that all people are potential Good Samaritans, but I know this is far from the truth. I would, however, like to commend one small community known as the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. We openly share our time and talent with anyone in need, continually rising to meet the challenge of people in need. I feel blessed to stand side by side with some of the kindest individuals I have ever met. There is a constant sincerity in the way we greet each other. The promises we make are kept and exceeded in many instances. In a world where we are all too busy, we manage to

find time for the important issues of our lives. During the past 75 years, we have not become a strong association by accident. This has occurred because of a willingness to do our best and improvise accordingly, if needed, to succeed. I believe that in many respects we embody the qualities of the Good Samaritan; there is not a person in our Association that does not do what he or she is asked to do, and many who do so much more. We need to pride ourselves in that knowledge and make a positive contribution when opportunity presents itself. That is my interpretation of being a Good Samaritan.

Make no mistake about it, I am not comparing what we do in our industry to those who risk their lives to rescue others. They are true heroes. But while we pre-

serve the environment, bring enjoyment to our guests and members, and volunteer with the many activities that we are involved in, we also make a difference.

As eight years of article- and column-writing come to a close, I would like to thank all of you. It has been an honor working with fellow Board members and committee members. I also thank the membership of MAGCS for their continued support throughout the years. I also encourage all of you to stay involved, give what you can and carry on a wonderful tradition of caring. God bless and have a wonderful holiday season.



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