



A Model of Strength Through Adversity:

Our Own George Minnis

As president of this fine Association, it is one of my responsibilities to report to the membership on the inner workings of the Midwest. An ideal venue for this is obviously my monthly president's message in On Course. Ordinarily at this juncture, I would be recapping the GCSAA International Conference and Show, the Midwest Hospitality Room, the GCSAA Golf Championship and the GCSAA election. But at this time, I would like to share some news that is more compelling than all of the above.

Somewhere along the way I once heard, "Facing adversity can build character, but dealing with adversity will build strength." If that is true, then there is no stronger man I know than George.

Since the mid-1990s, a name has surfaced in our organization that everyone knows, but a rare few have actually met the person behind the name. I am speaking, of course, about our very own George Minnis. His title is executive secretary for the MAGCS, but a title cannot do justice to what this individual means to our organization. During my years as a director on the Board, and now as president, I have always realized his importance to our Association. And shamefully, I will have to admit to taking his abilities, and his attention to his myriad responsibilities, for granted. Among my typical responses to member questions has been one recurring theme: "Well, I will have to get back to you on that, I have to ask George." Or, "Call George, he'll know." And my favorite, of course: "George does that."

To say that George is the main gear around which the entire MAGCS revolves, would be an understatement. As would comparing him to the shaft that makes the gear run, or the engine that turns the shaft, or the fuel that makes the engine run, or the spark that ignites the fuel. But to say that he is all of those would be close to putting things in the proper perspective. Simply put, for the Midwest he is Command Central in Charge of Information Distribution. He is now and has been for years the clearinghouse by which all Association functions are performed.

Somewhere along the way I once heard, "Facing adversity can build character, but dealing with adversity will build strength." If that is true, then there is no stronger man I know than George. Many of us have known for years now that George, while performing his duties for us, many times putting Association business before his own, has been quietly dealing with his own health issues. Just after he took over as our executive secretary, George was first diagnosed with cancer. Over the years, he has been through a regime of chemotherapy, radiation and any other new experimental drug that happened to surface. Some of these practices worked, some did not. Through all of this, he never once dished off his responsibilities for MAGCS. Recently, another cancerous lesion appeared. This one lodged in George's spine. After several unsuccessful attempts to eradicate the lesion, the doctors have informed

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George that there is no more that they can do.

To our membership, I ask only this: let us take a moment out of our busy lives, and after realizing how lucky we really are, and thanking God for that fact, say a little prayer for my good friend George. Give him a call or send him an e-mail; I am sure he would love to hear from you all.

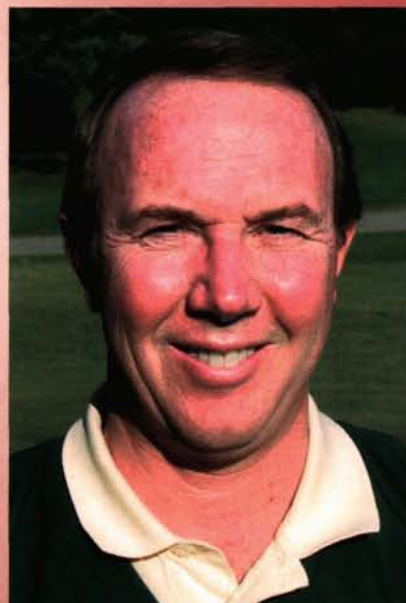
George, since joining our Midwest family, you have witnessed MAGCS almost double in size. Without you, that steady growth would have been impossible. You have brought tireless dedication and unparalleled professionalism to our Association. You have spoiled us with your efficiency and innovation. For this, we are eternally grateful. Personally, your undying spirit has had an everlasting positive impact on me, and that I can never repay.

Thanks for everything, George!



Mulligans

The cover of the February issue of *On Course* recognized Dudley Smith as the worthy recipient of the 2003 GCSAA Distinguished Service Award. A related article noted that prior to Dudley, the last MAGCS member to earn this award was Michael Bavier in 2000. In fact, Bruce Williams, CGCS, of Los Angeles Country Club—past president of the MAGCS and GCSAA—received this distinct honor in 2002. *On Course* apologizes for the error and assures Bruce that although he lives and works outside of the Midwest, the Midwest is always and forever proud and privileged to claim his as one of our own.



Bruce Williams, CGCS.



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