

## Ken Venturi chosen for Old Tom Morris Award

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Ken Venturi, CBS golf analyst and former PGA Tour professional, will receive the 1998 Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

The award presentation will take place here at a banquet Feb. 7 during the association's 69th International Golf Course Conference and Show.

The Old Tom Morris Award is presented each year to an individual who, "through a continuing lifetime commitment to the game of golf, has helped to mold the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris." Morris (1821-1908) was greenkeeper and golf professional at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland; a four-time winner of the British Open; and ranked as one of the top links designers of the 19th century.

"Ken exemplifies the spirit of Old Tom Morris because he has a passion for the game and all that it has to offer," said Paul S. McGinnis, GCSAA president. "Quietly, unassumingly, behind the scenes, he's done a great deal to benefit the game of golf and those less fortunate. He has brought the game to people around the world and, in the process, always supported superintendents and recognized their management and environmental achievements."

Venturi grew up in the San Francisco Bay area and graduated from San Jose (Calif.) State University in 1953, but delayed his golf career to serve in the military. He burst onto the scene in 1956 as he led the Masters for three rounds as an amateur before losing to Jackie Burke.

Undaunted by the crushing loss at Augusta, Venturi turned pro in 1957 and won 14 PGA Tour events, the last one coming in 1967. Undoubtedly, the highlight of his career came in winning the 1964 U.S. Open championship. That title, which came after a string of physical setbacks, earned Venturi PGA Player of the Year, Sports Illustrated's Sportsman of the Year and Comeback Athlete of the Year honors.

Among his other achievements are selection to the 1965 Ryder Cup team and induction into the Collegiate Hall of Fame (1978) and Smithsonian Institute (1979). He was presented the Golden Tee Award by the Metropolitan (N.Y.) Golf Writers in 1994.

Although carpal tunnel syndrome (undiagnosed at the time) forced Venturi to retire at 33, he has remained a fixture in the world of golf. For the past 29

years, he has provided analysis for coverage of golf on the CBS Television Network. He began his commentary career as a co-host with Jack Whitaker for the CBS Golf Championship and CBS Golf Classic in 1968. In addition to his work with CBS, he is the author of golf instruction

books and articles, and is one of the most sought-after personal teachers.

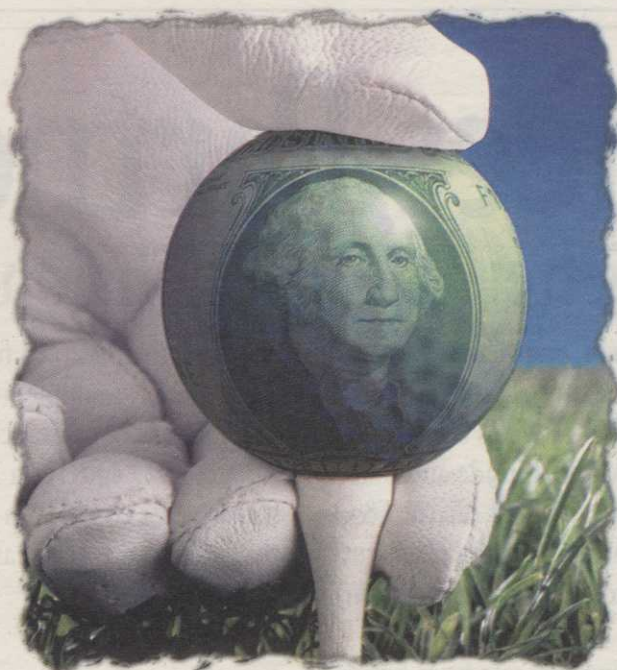
Venturi has received numerous humanitarian awards and is involved in several golf charities including the Guiding Eyes for the Blind and Camp Venture for retarded children.

## O'Brien to get President's Award

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) Chief Operating Officer Joe O'Brien has been selected by the GCSAA board of directors to receive the association's most prestigious environmental honor, the 1998 President's Award for Environmental Leadership. GCSAA President Paul S. McGinnis will present the award to O'Brien during the government and Environmental General Session, Feb. 5, during GCSAA's 69th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Anaheim, Calif.

O'Brien was nominated and selected for the award based upon his commitment to fostering and facilitating environmental initiatives with allied golf associations and advocacy groups.

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