

# Steve Mona:

## *If It Weren't My Dad, I Wouldn't be in the Career I'm in Today*

BY LARRY AYLWARD

It wasn't for his father, Steve Mona says he would not be the CEO of the GCSAA.

"He introduced me to golf," the 46-year-old Mona says of his dad, Frank. "I don't think I'd be in this position if it weren't for him having done that. I credit him for how I wound up in my career."

Frank introduced Steve to golf when he was 12. That's when the Mona family moved from New York to northern California. Frank joined the Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton, Calif., where the Monas lived. Steve spent his summer days honing his game on the course.

"One of the main reasons my dad joined the course was to introduce us to golf," says Steve, who's the oldest of four children.

Frank, who turns 80 in July, still plays golf about four times a week in Palm Desert, Calif., where he lives. Steve says he and his father have played some memorable rounds together, including at Augusta National and Winged Foot Country Club.

The superintendents he represents respect Mona because he's so approachable. Mona says he learned that skill from his dad.

Steve remembers his father treating everyone with respect at Griffith Laboratories, the food seasoning manufacturer where he worked. His father had the top job at one of the company's facilities, but Steve says you never knew it.

"He had a great relationship with everybody," Steve says. "He treated everyone like they were the president of the company. I told myself, 'I have no business thinking that I'm better than anybody or my position is better than someone else's position.'"

Mona says his father led by example. He rarely sat Steve down and told him what he should do. He showed him through his actions. "That's how I picked up on a lot of things that are now part my character," Mona says.

His father's humility always impressed Steve, and he strives to live a modest life himself. "My dad hardly ever talked about himself," Mona says.

Mona says Frank held a demanding job, but he was a family man at heart. He wanted to be part of his children's lives.



*Frank and Steve Mona*

Steve remembers his dad taking him and his brother along when he played golf with his buddies at the club. He also remembers his dad's friends didn't bring their teen-age sons along. Steve remembers how proud he felt that his dad wanted him there.

"My dad was sending a message to me about his belief and confidence in me — and that he wanted to spend time with me," Steve says softly.

Mona says his father also taught him about work ethic. Steve says he doesn't remember his father ever missing a day of work.

Like father like son. Steve says he's missed one day of work in his 24-year career — and he went home sick at 4 p.m. ■