

The acceptance speech for the career-recognition award was limited to three minutes. Danny Quast, a veteran superintendent of 38 years and the recipient of the award, could probably talk for three *hours* about the memories and highlights of his illustrious career.

So what would Quast cram into an 180-second speech upon receiving the GCSAA's 2004 Distinguished Service Award? Would he reminisce about his 12 years at Medinah Country Club, where he staged a PGA Championship? Or would he talk about all the fabulous people he met in the business over the years?

When Quast stood in front of the microphone stand to make his speech, he kept his thoughts closer to home. He didn't talk about the glitz of a hosting a Major or working at one of the most revered clubs in the nation.

Quast's speech for the award, the crowning achievement of his career, focused on his mother, Hazel, who died in January at age 90. Quast said he wanted to share his award with his mom, who inspired him to go out in the world and make something of himself.

"When I look back over my life, it was my mother that made it all happen for me — by her examples and her attitudes," the 60-year-old Quast told me. "Her encouragement over the years is what put me up on that stage to accept the award. She was the most influential person in my life."

Quast told the thousands attending the awards ceremony, held during the Opening Session of the GCSAA Conference and Show in February, that his mother quietly went about doing God's work during her life but received little recognition for her efforts. So Quast wanted to recognize her now. His time in the spotlight would also be his mother's time.

For the first time in many years, Quast will not celebrate Mother's Day with his mom this month. There will be a void in his heart on May 9.

But Quast, as he has done already, will find comfort and strength in remembering how his mother lived life with zest — daily.

A Superintendent's Distinguished Mom

BY LARRY AYLWARD



DANNY QUAST
SHARES GCSAA
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"There wasn't a day that I ever knew her where she woke up and wasn't glad she was alive," Quast says.

Hazel taught Danny and his twin brother, Dave, to pursue their dreams. She encouraged them to leave their hometown near Dayton, Ohio, so they could make their marks on the world. Sure, she would miss them dearly when they were gone, but she wanted them to get out and expand their horizons.

"She inspired us to be adventurous," Quast says.

Hazel also inspired her sons through her generosity. Danny was moved by his mother's altruism while growing up.

He says Hazel had a heart of gold — she was always volunteering and helping others at various social centers. Even when she was in her late 80s and living at a nursing home, Hazel would take the elevator to the Alzheimer's ward and help out.

"I hope I can walk in her shadow and do as she did for others," Quast says.

Shortly before she died, Hazel, who had \$144 to her name, told Danny, "I'm sorry I'm not leaving you anything."

To which Danny replied: "You left me *everything*. You left me the ability to go out and *be* something."

Indeed, Quast was "something" — one of the top superintendents in the business. But Hazel also left Danny with something else: She taught him about humility and nobility through her actions.

Think about it: The fact that Quast recognized his mother during his three minutes in the limelight says a great deal about the man — and the way he was raised.

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