

# Off The Fringe

## Business briefs

### PBI/Gordon, Mitsui Team Up

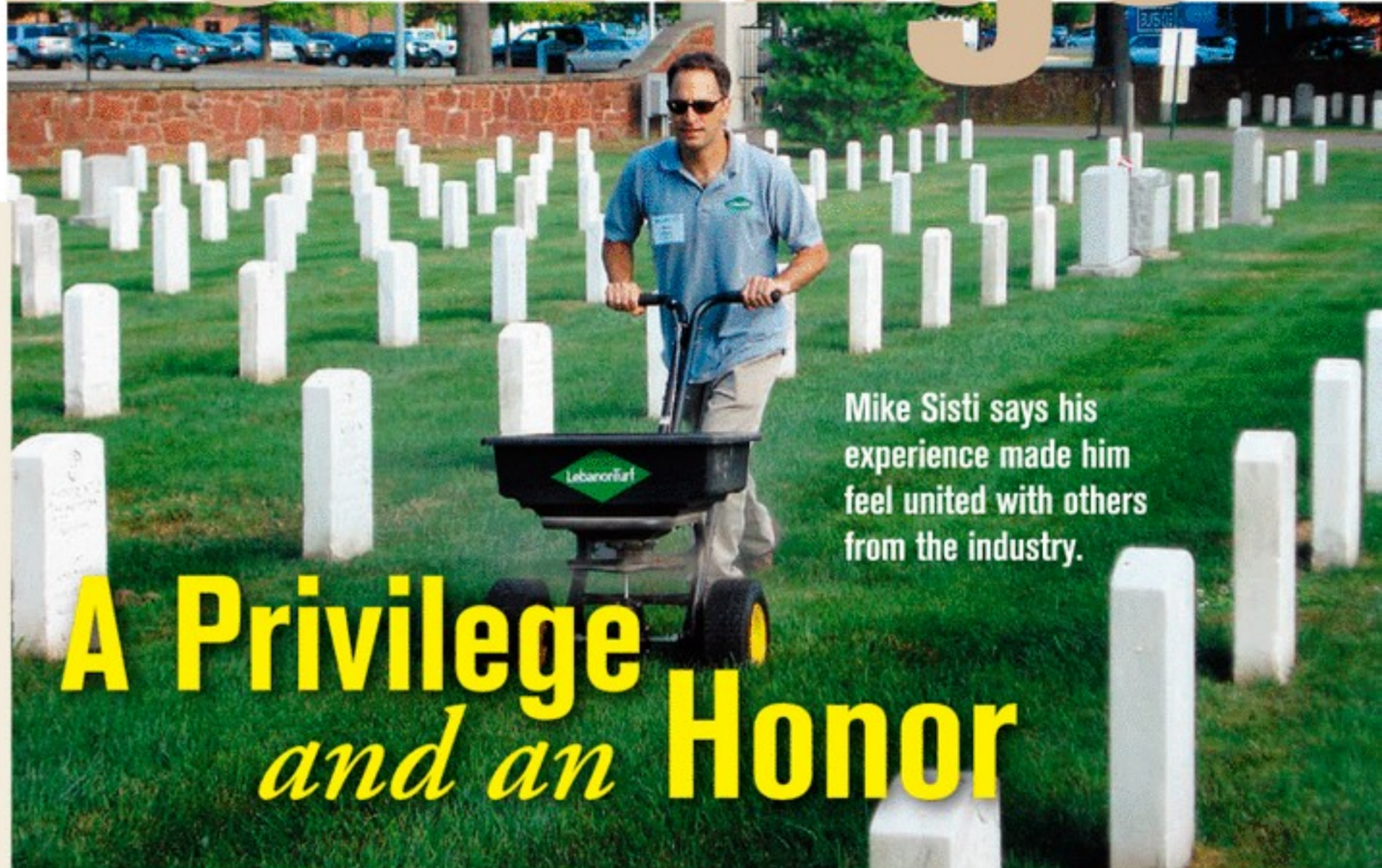
Kansas City-based PBI/Gordon made an agreement with Mitsui Chemicals Agro Inc. of Tokyo that gives PBI/Gordon marketing rights to dinotefuran in the United States golf market, as well as certain rights in other professional turf and ornamental markets. Mitsui Chemicals Agro is a subsidiary of Mitsui Chemicals. Dinotefuran is a neonicotinoid insecticide that will be marketed by PBI/Gordon in two formulations, a 20SG (soluble granule) for turf and a 10SL (soluble liquid) for ornamental insect pests. Product availability is expected in 2010. The trade name and pricing of the product will soon be announced. "As a United States marketing partner with Mitsui, we are excited to bring dinotefuran to the U.S. golf and professional turf and ornamental markets," said Tom Hoffman, vice president of product development for PBI/Gordon.

### Valent Appoints Blome as EVP, COO

Jim Blome was named executive vice president and chief operating officer of Walnut Creek, Calif.-based Valent U.S.A. In his new role, Blome will oversee all day-to-day operations of the company's agricultural, professional and consumer products business units in the United States and Canada. In his new position, Blome will work closely with Valent's leadership team to continue the company's growth, which in recent years has included several introductions of new products and active ingredients.

### Industry Will Miss Mike Daly

Mike Daly, whose industry career spanned more than 20 years, passed away in April  
*Briefs continue on page 12*



Mike Sisti says his experience made him feel united with others from the industry.

## A Privilege and an Honor

### LEBANONTURF'S MIKE SISTI MOVED BY PARTICIPATING IN RENEWAL & REMEMBRANCE EVENT AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL

By Mike Sisti

**T**here are more than 330,000 men and women — veterans and military casualties from every war our nation has fought since the Civil War — buried on the 624 acres of Arlington National Cemetery. One day each year the green industry has the unique privilege of rolling up its collective sleeves and paying its respects.

This was the first year I participated in the event. I thought I was prepared for the emotion I would

experience, but I was wrong.

My work group, which included several veterans, was assigned the liming detail for 255 acres of turf. Other groups were deployed to different parts of the cemetery to aerate, plant and prune, as well as cable and brace trees and install lightning protection.

We had been working for only a short time when we heard the sounds of a funeral procession. First the band members; then the caisson team of seven white horses, one with a soldier's boots turned backward in the stirrups; and a horse-drawn carriage holding a casket draped with an American flag.

We stopped our work, turned off our machines and removed our caps. We stood in silence for several minutes as one of 29 funeral proces-

*Continued on page 16*

**Editor's note:** Mike Sisti, marketing manager for LebanonTurf, was among more than 400 members of the green industry who spent July 13 in Washington helping maintain the grounds at Arlington National Cemetery as part of the 13th annual Renewal & Remembrance event conducted by the Professional Landcare Network. Many of the landscape and lawn-care professionals also visited lawmakers on Capitol Hill on July 14 to discuss issues facing the industry.

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## **PRIVILEGE** *Continued from page 8*

sions scheduled for this day moved past us and to the gravesite of another American hero. Then we turned on our machines and got back to work, reminded that, on this most hallowed ground, we were united as a team, united as an industry and united as Americans.

The next day, many of us traded our work clothes for coats and ties to visit lawmakers on Capitol Hill. I had meetings with Pennsylvania Congressman Jim Gerlach and with aides for New Jersey Congressmen Rush Holt and Rob Andrews.

I wish I could say I left Washington feeling that our messages concerning pending water legislation, health care for small businesses and immigration labor laws were heard loud and clear. There are obviously some lawmakers who understand the issues and others who just don't get it when it comes to the contributions of our industry and the corresponding need for their support. It was a strong reminder we need to continue the education process, and that the 13<sup>th</sup> Renewal & Remembrance event can't be our last. ■

## **JIM** *Continued from page 10*

will play somewhere around 7,650 yards. There are too many changes to list since 2002. We repositioned 18 bunkers, added 10 bunkers and added length on 12 holes.

**In 50 words or less, describe how the course's greens will play for the tournament?** They will be at championship speeds and fairly firm. They are bentgrass/*Poa* (until next summer), and our main goal is have them smooth. There are subtle breaks, which make them a little tricky when the speed is up.

**Has Jim Nicol changed at all since the last PGA Championship?**

My hair is a lighter color, and I might have mellowed some.

**How do you handle the pressure that comes with staging a tournament like this?** Stay focused and remain true to what the mission is.

Get some sleep and take a little time for family and friends.

You also need to depend on the lead crew members.

**Who's your favorite player on the PGA Tour and why?** Tim Herron is a great guy who I have followed since his high school days. He calls me "Jimmy" and gives me a cigar once in while when he is out here. Tom Lehman is also very kind but no cigars.

**What will you do Sunday night after the tournament?** Have a short celebration with the crew and get ready for the outing on Monday morning. I'm going to take the following weekend off (I hope) to fish and ... ■



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