
Angelo Cammarota

1915-1995

*Michael Larsen
Woodmont Country Club*

On September 16, 1995, Angelo Cammarota, a fixture in the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents, passed away at the age of 80. Many young superintendents may not have known Angelo, or his tireless work and accomplishments on behalf of our association. Angelo held all the offices in our association and was president of the Mid-Atlantic in 1966 and 1967. He was our voting delegate at the national conference for many years and one of the founding fathers of the Maryland Turfgrass Council. Angelo was a leader at a time when superintendents did not enjoy the salaries or prestige that they do today. Angie was a true proponent and supporter of the profession he dearly loved.

I can recall, as a young superintendent, attending local meetings with Paul O'Leary and Kenny Braun. As we would approach the meeting site, invariably we would hear Angelo's distinctive laugh above the crowd. Paul, Kenny, and I would glance at each other and smile, silently acknowledging Angelo's presence. Angie made everyone feel welcome, even the youngest superintendents.

Over the past 15 years, Angelo and I became very close. We would travel to monthly meetings together, and I would drive along enduring his endless stream of one liners and stories from the old days. Our conversations would span a wide range of subjects, with Angie always finding a way to make us laugh. I appreciated his experience and counsel, but I appreciated his honesty even more. He would tell me when I was right, but also never failed to tell me when I was wrong, sometimes being brutally honest with me. His kind, caring side, however, always came through.

One Sunday not too long ago, while attending church, the priest's sermon centered around his presiding over his own father's funeral the previous week. His father had lived to be 82. The pastor, reflecting upon his father's life, noted that he was an honest, hardworking man who loved his family, had many friends, and was at peace with himself. To live to the age of 82, enjoying good health for the most part, is a wonderful blessing. While death is sad, it is also O.K. His sermon struck a nerve with me.

The last years of Angelo's life may have been some of his happiest. Traveling around with his son, David, calling on different golf courses, visiting with his friends and talking shop. No matter how bad your day was going, it was always good to see Angie. Laughing with Angelo always made things better.

I attended Angelo's funeral in New Jersey and at the end of the service as I said my final goodbye, all the good times we had together raced through my mind. In the finality of the moment, I took comfort in the words I heard several weeks earlier. Angelo, you're gone now, but it's O.K. We're all better persons for having known you.

Angie Cammarota

Bob Miller

The summer of 1959-1960 I met Angie at Green Hill Yacht and Country Club. Since then I have traveled with Angie to many superintendent meetings and turf conferences - both local and national. I cannot think of any other superintendent who was more dedicated to our profession.

Angie had a wonderful memory of people and things that affected the turf industry. He probably knew more people in the turf business than anyone in the country. Always - I mean ALWAYS - Angie was available with helpful information for young and old superintendents that needed help.

Angie was also an excellent worker on committees for the Mid-Atlantic Superintendents and the Maryland Turf Council. He was one of the first users of 24D - MCPP and dicamba years before it became known as Trimec. He was a mixer on the golf course as well as with people and we will miss him.

Our prayers go out to Angie's wife, Thelma, sons David and Nick, daughters Linda and Susan.

Angie - thanks for your help through the years.