



Distinguished Service Award

Grower of the Game

The MGA is proud to posthumously honor J. Michael Carter's many contributions to the game he loved | BY JEANNE MCCOOEY

THE METROPOLITAN GOLF Association is proud to posthumously recognize J. Michael Carter with the Association's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award. Carter was Vice-President of the MGA when he passed away in March of this year at the age of 52.

The Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to a candidate who has contributed "...distinguished service to golf and its related activities, consistent with the valued standards and honorable traditions of the game." The roster of past winners, including Joe Dey, Robert Trent Jones, Sr., Jim Hand, and recent winners John Baldwin, Charles Robson, and Lowell Schulman attest to the significance of this honor, and it is fitting that the name of Michael Carter be added to this list.

Born in Bronxville, NY, Michael raised his family in Westfield, NJ, and moved to Summit in 2004. He graduated from Villanova and the University of Chicago School of Business and enjoyed a successful business career, ultimately serving as a senior vice president at the Manufacturers and Traders Trust Co.—M&T Bank—in New York City.

An avid golfer, Michael was devoted to the game and its role in the Metropolitan golfing community. A member



Carter's devotion to junior golf was unrivaled.

of the MGA Executive Committee and the Association's charitable Foundation Board of Directors, he served as Secretary/Treasurer of both organizations in 2003-2004, and became Vice-President in December, 2004. He was a member and president of Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, NJ, where he served as the

vice chairman of the U.S. Amateur in 2000, and was instrumental in bringing another major, this year's PGA Championship, to Baltusrol, and was serving on the 2005 Championship Committee at the time of his death. Michael was also a long time member of Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, NY.

In addition to his involvement with both of these renowned clubs, Michael was highly dedicated to growing the game of golf. Carter's family had recently been struck with tragedy when his son Michael P. Carter was killed in an auto accident in 2002. A promising young collegiate player at Penn State, Carter honored his son and their mutual love for the game by working with the MGA and Baltusrol to establish the "Carter Cup," bringing together an elite group of accomplished junior golfers from

around the Metropolitan Area to compete. The event, which is held annually at Baltusrol, is now the official MGA Junior Stroke Play Championship and has already established itself as one of the nation's premier junior events. Michael was also a strong supporter of the Foundation's junior golf programs and initiatives and served as Chairman of the MGA Junior Committee.

MGA Executive Director Jay Mottola noted, "Golf is blessed to benefit from the leadership of some wonderful individuals—Michael Carter was one of those people. He reminded us that there is no relationship between the length of time we spend on this earth and the impact we can have on other people's lives. His dedication to the game of golf, to his club, the Association, and our char-

itable Foundation's junior golf programs left a legacy that will benefit the local golf community for years to come. The courage he showed in the face of tragedy is an inspiration and a lesson to all that knew him. It is fitting to recognize his accomplishments and the way he led his life with the MGA's highest honor." ■