

A LABOR OF LOVE

Guido Cribari, the winner of the MGA's Distinguished Service Award for 1994, has chronicled and promoted Met Area golf for decades



Some people influence golf because it's part of their job. Others give up their own time, volunteering with local golf organizations and working for charitable causes. And then there are those rare individuals who do both. Guido Cribari, this year's recipient of the MGA's Distinguished Service Award, is such an individual.

Born and raised in Westchester County, the former Executive Sports Editor of Gannett Westchester newspapers chronicled the people and events on the local golf scene in his unique and inimitable style for almost five decades. But Cribari did much more than cover golf. He had a powerful hand in the formation of the Reinach-Turnesa Caddie Scholarship Fund (now the Westchester Golf Association Caddie Scholarship Fund), the National Golf Awards Dinner, and the Thunderbird Classic (later the Westchester Classic, now the Buick Classic). He has guided and promoted countless local charity events and has played a major role in the Ken Venturi Guiding Eyes Classic. In fact, there is hardly a meaningful area event that he has not been involved with in one way or another. Along the way Cribari earned the nickname "Mr. Golf," a tag he wears proudly.

Not surprisingly, Cribari has been honored by nearly every area golf organization. He received the Metropolitan PGA's Sam Snead Award in 1976, becoming the first non-professional to achieve that honor, and was the first to receive the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents' John Reid Award. The Lincoln Werden Award for golf journalism was bestowed upon him by the Metropolitan Golf Writers Association in 1985. Cribari has also been recognized by the Metropolitan chapters of the Club Managers, the Caddie Masters, and the Lockermen's Associations, and holds honorary memberships at 41 Met Area golf clubs. Clearly Cribari's efforts and personal charisma have touched a great many people over the years.

At the age of 70, Cribari continues to serve the local golf community. His love affair with the game is as strong as ever, and his impact on golf is felt in every corner of the metropolitan golf community. ■