

## IN MEMORIAM

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RELEASES

## PGA of Canada Life Member Kenneth Matson Remembered As The "Ultimate Professional"

PGA of Canada Life Member, Kenneth Matson passed away on March 14, 2017 at the age of 80. He is survived by his wife, Bernice; daughters Brenda, Diana and Rhonda as well as eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Master Professional Bill Penney summed the feelings of many about the long-time Broadmoor Head Professional,

***"... Ken was the ultimate Professional and someone that all PGA members looked up to and tried to emulate. I have so many wonderful memories (that I) will cherish forever..."***

Born on December 13, 1936 in Toronto, Ontario, Ken began his



**KENNETH MATSON (1936-2017)**

love affair with golf as a teenager caddying at York Downs G&CC in Toronto. However, it wasn't until he was almost 30 years old that Ken decided to take on golf as a career and in 1967 while at the Northwood CC, he became a Member of the CPGA.

In those years in the Toronto area, he was fortunate enough to play and discuss the game with some of the great players in Canadian golf history including

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Moe Norman, Al Balding, Stan Leonard, and George Knudson.

In 1968, Ken, along his wife Bernice and daughters, made his

way to Alberta

when a spot opened up at the Broadmoor GC in Sherwood Park.

It was here his joy for his profession

was fully realized. Ken loved meeting people and getting to know them, sharing his stories and theirs. He simply loved being around the golf course. Ken would arrive at 8:00 every morning and often stay until 11:00 or midnight every night. Bernice would help him out in the shop, taking the early morning shift on weekends before going home to look after their three daughters. Eventually, all three of Ken's children would end up working at the golf course over the course of their teenage years. Ken was always involved with the junior program lessons and

employing some of the kids in a variety of roles around the course. Among the juniors and young professionals that Ken helped mentor as they began

their careers in the golf industry were Gary Ward, Grant Cammidge, Chad and Tyler Rumpel, Bob Halvorsen, Peter Cushner, Garry Meyer,

Henry Hemmes, Bruce Vermee, Ron MacLeod, Gregg Schubert, Jeff Sveen, David Adam, Wayne Hall, and Cyril Zupan.

In a posting to Ken's on-line obituary, Bob Halvorsen wrote about Ken's impact, "Ken was a special person who demonstrated so much love for his family, friends, profession and all the golfers who he trained and welcomed into his life. We all know where Ken will be when he arrives in heaven... on a very special course. Take care Kenny, we will all see you and your smile on the other side."

*A "Celebration of Life" will be held on May 23rd at 1:00 PM at Northern Bear Golf Club.*

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Expanding on Matson's early mentorship, Grant Cammidge, now executive professional at the Edmonton Petroleum Club, said Ken was the man that introduced him to the industry, "Ken probably had more impact on other junior guys at the Broadmoor than me, because I was more interested in baseball early in my junior days. But, on a go-forward basis Ken was always extremely respectful. He was a big supporter of junior golf and just a first-class guy. He's one of those guys that got me into the golf business, that's for sure."

Although Ken was more into teaching and club repair, he was a capable player as well, with one highlight being a high finish at the Tar Sands Open... an event where Dave Barr, Dan Halldorson, and Moe Norman were frequent competitors.

Ken was also active on the Alberta PGA Board, serving in the early 1970's with the likes of Frank Fowler, Bill Quilley, and Derek Gibson.

Ken resigned from Broadmoor in 1989 after 21 seasons and then spent much of his time in semi-retirement, but remained in the industry. In 1999, a friend who owned Terrae Pines asked Ken to help out, and he did so for six seasons until 2004, the same year he was recognized as a Life Member of the PGA of Canada. In recent years, Ken helped at Northern Bear GC as a starter where he continued to make his mark on many PGA Members.

After his passing in March, a celebration of Ken's life would be held, in his wife's words, '... when the grass is green'.

*That "Celebration of Life" will occur at Northern Bear Golf Club (who has graciously offered their facility) on May 23rd at 1:00 PM. If you would like the opportunity to speak contact Garry Meyer at [mcgarrymeyer@gmail.com](mailto:mcgarrymeyer@gmail.com).*

*In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the charity of your choice.*

*Please click **here** for more on Ken's great contributions to the Golf Industry.*

