

Obituary of Joan B. Coffman, September 10, 1933- September 5, 2025

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/arlington-va/joan-coffman-12511622>

Remembrance of Joan from WDCGA Past President Pat Kaufman:

Joan was president in 1984-5, back when our presidents were listed by their husbands' names (Mrs. Edgar D. Coffman). She was a very fine golfer who won championships at both her local (Washington Golf) and away (Ford's Colony) clubs. She was ahead of her time in her interest in and knowledge of the rules, and she was a very proficient (and strict!) rules official. On a personal note, she was a genuinely nice person, and despite her many talents she was never one to blow her own horn, though there was plenty of reasons to. I enjoyed spending time with her over a glass of wine trying to convince her to spell her last name the right way. She loved the WDCGA and never missed our annual luncheons until, in her later years, it became too hard to attend. How fitting that in 2011 the WDCGA honored her with the Sharon Briggs Award for Distinguished Service.

Excerpts from the 2011 recommendation for Joan Coffman to receive The Sharon Briggs Award for Distinguished Service:

Joan Coffman has been a USGA member for 50 years. She was first certified as a USGA Rule Official in 1970. She consistently scores near 100 on the USGA Rules school exams and often assisted as a rules official in USGA & LPGA events. She still regularly attends the USGA Rules Schools and takes the exams, scoring very high and being fully certified as a Rules Expert.

Joan organized numerous USGA Junior Girls Qualifying tournaments and has been a member of the USGA Junior Girls Rules Committee from 1990-2011. She was the rules official for Annika Sorenstam at Pine Needles in which Sorenstam won.

Joan has been a District member since 1960 and has served as chair on numerous District committees before becoming President in 1984-1985. She has been a sponsor of the Coffman Cup (the August Class B Cup) tournament since 1986 and was the 1989 Winner of the WDCGA President's Plate. She also continues to serve as a Rules Official for the WDCGA.

She has been a member of Washington Golf and Country Club since the 60's and has held most of the WGA committee and Officer positions, including WGA President. She has been a 7-time WGA Club Champion at WGCC. She also won the championship at Ford's Colony Country Club in 1985.

...

In summary, Joan has shown all the characteristics necessary for [The Sharon Briggs Award for Distinguished Service]. She has devoted hours of her precious time to understanding and teaching the rules of golf to all ages, has encouraged golfers and non-golfers to be the best they can be on and off the course. She continues to devote energy to promote all to understand and follow the rules of golf and sets a wonderful example of sportsmanship and fair play.