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FEATURED

## **ChesMRC honors John Ford's memory**

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EASTON — The late John Ford’s legacy of leadership and public service continues to inspire tributes in his memory.

On Sept. 16, Matthew Peters, executive director of the Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center in Easton, and Board President Harvey Zendt paid a visit to Ford’s wife Peggy Ford. They wanted to give her a copy of a plaque they hung on the wall of the center.

The plaque was “so thoughtfully written,” Peggy Ford said. “It was very sweet, very lovely.”

Ford said her first impulse was to give the plaque back to Peters and Zendt to hang in ChesMRC’s office after she had shown it to her son Ben. “I didn’t even have to say it,” she said. “I’ll have one and they’ll have one, which me feel very, very humbled, but proud that they feel so much for John and what he had done for the organization.”



Ford was 67 when he died Feb. 4. He was serving as Easton Town Council president when he suffered a stroke in in November 2019. He served 22 years on the Easton Town Council and 15 years as its president.

Titled “A Tribute to John Ford,” the etched-glass and wood plaque features the ChesMRC tree logo.

“John provided remarkable energy, wisdom, and a myriad of skills to strengthen many of our projects, and he did so in his usual humble, positive manner,” the tribute states.

“He stepped up on many occasions to solve problems, and his leadership on the Board was respected by all its members.

“The Board and Staff all felt supported by John and knew that our organization was a better one because of his presence. He set an example for what is expected of a leader, an example that will stay with the organization even though he is no longer with us.

“For all these reasons, the legacy of John Ford is a powerful one. We are all better stewards of ChesMRC and its mission for having known and worked with him. Please know that his spirit is alive and remains with us,” the tribute states.

The mission of ChesMRC is to empower “people from different cultures to become successful and engaged members of our community,” according to chesmrc.org, the organization’s website.



“They gave me a list of all the people who had donated to ChesMRC in John’s memory, and it was single-spaced, typed,” Ford said. “I was totally floored by the number of people who who contributed, so that made me feel happy that the community felt strongly about John and ChesMRC.”

“We received 61 gifts in his memory, which amounted to more than \$5,500,” wrote ChesMRC Advancement Manager Dr. Lorelly Solano in a Sept. 22 email. “We are very grateful to everyone that supported ChesMRC in memory of John. Great work has been done through their generosity.”

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