



Edward James Minch

February 10, 1949 - July 27, 2021

Edward James Minch of Chestertown, MD, passed away on Tuesday, July 27, 2021, at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore. He was 72. Born on February 10, 1949 in Fort Monroe, VA, he was the son of the late Donald and Margaret Nordmann Minch.

Ed had a 45-year long career in energy efficiency during which he altered how home and commercial energy efficiency improvements were made to thousands of structures across the country. His service to his community didn't end after his retirement, it just took new shape. Since moving to Chestertown, Ed poured himself into Kent Attainable Housing (KAH) the not-for profit he co-founded with the goal of equalizing opportunities for home ownership in the county and allowing families to build generational stability. He was energized by the idea of helping others.

Ed was truly a lifelong learner; he loved history. He served for years on the Chestertown Historical Commission, and held a seat on the council for lifelong learning at Washington College. He was a champion of organ donation, and helped innovate a program which pairs organ donors with compatible recipients. Ed was a hand tool enthusiast- he had the right tool for every job- and spent many hours in his workshop lovingly crafting everything from chairs to guitars to toys for his grandchildren. He was an admirer of all things nautical and relished spending time on the water. He sailed Ruby, the boat he

and his brother Dave built, to tropical locations with his family, and spent countless volunteer hours working on the tall ships Kalmar Nyckel and Sultana. He loved cars, especially his vintage Avanti, and found much joy in birdwatching from the window of his living room. He suffered a lifelong addiction to chocolate. He always had time for a good laugh. But mostly, Ed loved people. He loved those close to him tirelessly. He was engaging, curious, innovative, funny, and generous with this time.

May we all live like Ed. He loved the phrase “Don’t give up the ship”. It’s a rallying cry and inspires us to do more, to not give up, but also it stands for the core values of honor, courage and commitment that he embodied every day.

In addition to his wife, Michele “Shelley” Miller Minch of Chestertown, he is survived by three daughters, Caitlin Clark of Newark, DE, Hannah Mercurio of Richmond, VA, and Mamie Minch (Tauno Biltsted) of New York, NY; five sisters, Cathy Murphy of Chagrin Falls, OH, Mary Minch (John Seden) of San Francisco, CA, Barbara Crawford of Wilmington, NC, Martha Lombardi (Fred) of Akron, OH, and Judy Zell (Mark) of North Ridgeville, OH; two brothers, Dave Minch (Robin Goss) of Saugerties, NY, and Tom Minch (Sandy Kehn) of Hudson, OH; grandchildren, Maceo C. Clark, Truman Edward Mercurio and Georgia D. Mercurio; as well as many well-loved nieces and nephews.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Ed Minch Housing Equity Fund via PayPal or mailed to Kent Attainable Housing at P.O. Box 501, Chestertown, MD 21620.

Tribute Wall



“ *Edward James Minch*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Edward James Minch*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Edward James Minch*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *ed and i shared oldtools and lucca italy, among other things, with each other over the last 20 or so years. i will miss hell out of our email conversations, and his funny, clear-eyed intelligence. many condolences for your loss.*

Bill Kasper - August 02, 2021 at 04:44 PM

NM

“ I knew Ed in several ways. I learned to appreciate his gentle manner. We sat next to each other for several years on the Historic District Commission and shared many of the same values. We understood and enjoyed architecture, old houses, low energy buildings and most of all Chestertown. He was a good man. He seemed to find the most joy in making things better in so many ways. One asks, "Why now?" I can only think that loosing someone as fine as Ed and so abruptly offers us all a wake up call not to take life for granted. Thank youi, Ed, for sharing your life with us. Our chats on Mill while he cruised by in his "Ed Minch Car" was a highlight of one's day.

Nancy McGuire

Nancy McD. McGuire - July 31, 2021 at 11:50 AM

MC

“ Mr. Minch I Have Only Known For about A Year As We Worked Together On A Kent Housing Project And Was Close To Another One! I Am Saddened To Hear Of This. He Was A Caring & Giving Man As I Knew Him. I Will Indeed Miss Him Greatly! RIP Friend!!

Marion Chance - July 29, 2021 at 04:54 PM

AD

“ I enjoyed working with Ed on many projects associated the WC-ALL Council. His dedication to our wider community was well known and appreciated by his many friends and acquaintances. He will be missed by all who knew him and, indeed, by many in our community who did not know him personally but never the less profited from his positive impact on so many aspects of life in Kent County.

And then there were those marvelous chocolate parties!

Jim joins me in sending sympathy and love to all the family on this sudden, unexpected loss.

Anne Donaghy

Anne Donaghy - July 29, 2021 at 12:02 PM

JS

Ed was a big help to me in learning the ropes of teaching a WC-ALL course by Zoom. His quiet manner put me at ease. He will be missed very much.

Jack Shaum - August 02, 2021 at 07:30 PM