



John F. Ford

December 4, 1952 - February 4, 2020

A kind, thoughtful, generous spirit left this earth Tuesday morning, February 4, 2020. His life was rich and full, he loved deeply, laughed readily, and did not judge. He accepted people for their interesting blend of flaws and idiosyncrasies. He was a wonderful husband, treasured brother, devoted father, and honest friend. He was a respected member of his community; he worked for fairness and compassion; and handled conflict with integrity. His legacy will live on in the many lives he touched. He was a consistent and treasured town leader, most often settling issues with a wry blend of common sense and compromise.

Born John Francis Ford in Dubuque, Iowa, on December 4, 1952, he made a positive impact on many people from his family to his community. He will be long missed.

John was a man of many interests. He was active and loved to play sports. As a young man, he was on the basketball, swim, football, and lacrosse teams. For the last 40 years, he swam at the YMCA at least five mornings a week, often done and gone before most Easton folks had their first cup of coffee.

In 1971, he graduated top of his class at SS Peter & Paul, went on to the University of Delaware, then ultimately got his degree from Towson State University, where he studied literature. He was an avid reader, and took many

post-grad literature classes at Washington College. He taught literature, poetry, Shakespeare, American history, civil history, and short stories as a founding member of the Academy for Lifelong Learning at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, where he worked as Operations Manager for several decades until his retirement in June 2019. Most recently he was a key founder and president of the Chesapeake Forum, a newly formed adult education organization in Easton, which completed its first semester this fall. John served on the boards of Historic Cemeteries of Easton and Easton's Affordable Housing Board, as well as president of the board of the Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center and president of the Easton Town Council for many years. He volunteered, he spoke at public events, he gave eulogies, he helped clean the cemetery, he showed up. He cared.

But John would dismiss his many accomplishments, except for one. He felt he was the luckiest man alive, because he was fortunate to have landed the prettiest, nicest, best girl he ever saw. From day one, when he brought her home to meet the family to their wedding in 1978, through his last weeks in the hospital, John's face, especially his eyes, lit up when they came to rest on his dear, Peggy. They were dancing, laughing, ice-cream-eating, dog-walking, hand-holding sight to see. As a fixture in our community, the two of them gladdened hearts, still so infatuated, 42 years in. They were blessed with one son, Benjamin Patrick, and when Benjamin married Kate Livie, it was clear their message of love and devotion was passed on.

John will be deeply missed by his dear wife, Peggy; son Ben (Kate); sister, Mary; brothers, Mike (Patricia), Thom (Leslie Passano), Steve (Donna); many nieces and nephews; countless dear friends; numerous colleagues; and a wide world of people he has touched and heartened. Although the family is struck with grief, we are also grateful that they had John in our lives. He was a rare blend of sincerity and humor, smart but humble, intuitive and generous. There was only one John Ford, and all will miss him the rest of their days.

A Celebration of John's Life will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2020, at 10 AM at Easton High School, 723 Mecklenburg Ave, Easton, MD 21601.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center or the Chesapeake Forum. Or, in the true spirit of John Ford, volunteer your time to give back to his beloved community.

Previous Events

celebration of life

FEB **22**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Easton High School
723 Mecklenburg Ave.
Easton, MD 21601

Tribute Wall



“ *John F. Ford*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *John F. Ford*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *John F. Ford*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Peggy*

Words can not express the grief that we have over John's passing. He was such a terrific person. We know he will be missed by you and the family as well as the whole community. We have kept you both in our prayers when he became ill. We will continue keeping you in our prayers. We know he is in a better place and you have many good memories of your life together that we hope will help you get through this difficult time.

Carol and Norm Fegel

Carol Fegel - February 17, 2020 at 07:09 PM

ME

“ *Mike Ewing lit a candle in memory of John F. Ford*



Mike Ewing - February 16, 2020 at 06:57 AM

PP

“ *Peggy, prayers to you & your family. There are no words to ease the pain of such a loss but please take comfort that this life is but the blink of an eye.....eternity will be forever together.*



Penny Plack - February 14, 2020 at 02:34 PM

JD

“ *Dearest Peggy, John was a kind, sweet caring man whom I will miss seeing smile through whatever situation. Knowing him as a dad and as a tried and true advocate for the East End community, he will remain an anchor in my heart for doing and advocating the good and right things. You are blessed to have walked and danced so many steps together, and may his memory bring you many beautiful smiles. Much love from Joyce DeLaurentis*

joyce DeLaurentis - February 14, 2020 at 10:35 AM

JH

“ John and I grieve with you, Peggy. Your John was an amazing man! He left his family and friends with a legacy of decency, steadfastness, kindness, generosity, and so much more. Words are simply inadequate. The world will never be quite the same without him.

Joan Harper - February 13, 2020 at 05:09 PM

MK

“ No matter how busy, John would have time for a smile and a pleasant greeting to anyone with whom he came into contact. His was a life well-lived, but too short. A giant hole is in our midst that John filled for so many years. My sympathy and prayers to Peggy and the rest of the family. Marcia Kirby

Marcia Kirby - February 11, 2020 at 05:40 PM

KB

“ That is the most beautiful and spot-on obituary I ever read. John was one of the most kind and generous people in our community. This is such a loss for Talbot County - all my love to Peggy, Ben, Kate and the rest of his family. Such a special, one of a kind person. I feel lucky to have known him.
Kathy Bosin

Kathy Bosin - February 11, 2020 at 02:02 PM

AH

“ Peggy, our hearts and prayers go out to you from all of us at SVdP. John left an incredible legacy and he lives on through you. Love,
Stephanie and Alex

Alex Handy - February 11, 2020 at 09:46 AM

LU

“ *Lucy lit a candle in memory of John F. Ford*



Lucy - February 10, 2020 at 09:23 PM

LU

Thinking of you all. Much love, Lucy Miller

Lucy - February 10, 2020 at 09:25 PM

LP

“ *Lisa Pierson lit a candle in memory of John F. Ford*



Lisa Pierson - February 10, 2020 at 04:05 PM

DD

“ *Doris & Howard Donovan lit a candle in memory of John F. Ford*



Doris & Howard Donovan - February 09, 2020 at 10:22 AM

DO

Peggy and Ben our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Doris - February 09, 2020 at 10:24 AM

WS

“ John and Peggy were our neighbors for years. John was always smiling. the last time we saw him he greeted us with hugs. I feel blessed to have known him. The world needs more John Fords.

Wanda Swartz - February 06, 2020 at 02:31 PM

NB

“ Nancy Bryan lit a candle in memory of John F. Ford



Nancy Bryan - February 06, 2020 at 01:56 PM

RG

“ Dear Peggy, Ben and Katie,
We are thinking of you and sending our deepest sympathy. Please let us know if we can do anything for you there are no words to express our sorrow at this sad time.
Love, Roger and Nancy Galvin

Roger Galvin - February 06, 2020 at 12:48 PM

PF

“ John truly understood the concept of public service because he was naturally interested in other people. He will be missed by those privileged to know him, and particularly by those who had the opportunity to work with him. My thoughts and prayers are with Peggy, Ben and the rest of the family at his untimely passing.



Phil Foster - February 06, 2020 at 02:36 AM

SF

“ John was a leader and inspiration as such a young man, as my classmate in high school. He was creative, brilliant, humorous, and kind. His smile simply invited your confidence and comfort. Although I have been gone from Easton for a long time, my parents are not, and I have been able to keep up with his amazing life through them. The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum is an incredible place and much of its development was a product of John and his team throughout his years there. He did so much else as well! I look forward to contributing to his educational initiatives as I am a retired teacher of 33 years. I am so sad for the wonderful Ford family - Letting go is so very hard especially when it is too early. I pray that your faith and that the amazing love surrounding him and the legacies that he created, will help you to move to the new way of keeping him close to your hearts.



Shery Fetterman - February 05, 2020 at 11:18 PM

MR

“ Dear Peggy and Ben, I was so shocked and saddened when I saw on TV about John's passing. My condolences. You are in my prayers and thoughts.

Martha Roe - February 05, 2020 at 11:08 PM

PP

“ Peggy you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. John was a wonderful man whom I remember from Saints Peter and Paul school. John had a life well lived.

Phylis Pope - February 05, 2020 at 08:08 PM

DP

“ *Doug Pierson lit a candle in memory of John F. Ford*



Doug Pierson - February 05, 2020 at 02:19 PM

JE

“ *Mr. John always had a smile on his face no matter what, and he could always light up a room when he came walking in!! He was loved by many!!! And will be truly missed!! They say God has better plans for us in the gates of heaven and down that golden road!! He's a forever angel watching over each and everyone of us!!! So many memories of Mr. John growing up with Ben..*

Jennifer - February 05, 2020 at 12:17 AM

AN

“ *Annbutler lit a candle in memory of John F. Ford*



annbutler - February 04, 2020 at 10:29 PM

SW

“ *From his days when I knew him at SS Peter and Paul he was a man of dedicated to learning, excellence and community. He never veered from those values. Peggy, my prayers are with you.
Stephen Wegener*

stephen wegener - February 04, 2020 at 08:36 PM

PF

“ *What an amazing legacy! Peggy, Ben, and family, you are in our thoughts and prayers at this time of sadness.* ”

Penny Finkner - February 04, 2020 at 07:59 PM