

Dear friends,

As many of you know, the flag world—and the North American Vexillological Association in particular—lost a great colleague, scholar, mentor, and, most of all, friend, with the death of John M. Purcell, Ph.D. FF on June 15, 2012.

John was president of NAVA from 1981 to 1983 and served on the editorial board of Raven: A Journal of Vexillology. He was recognized by NAVA in 1999 with The Whitney Smith Award and in 2010 with Honorary Membership. In 2012, NAVA created The John Purcell Award, to be given to an individual for an exemplary contribution that promotes public understanding of vexillology. John was also a founder of the Great Waters Association of Vexillology. John was recognized as a Fellow of the Federation at the closing banquet of the Twenty-First International Congress of Vexillology in 2005. At that same Congress, John received the Vexillon Award for "American City Flags: 150 Flags from Akron to Yonkers."

John's obituary from The Plain Dealer is here:

<http://obits.cleveland.com/obituaries/cleveland/obituary.aspx?pid=158115215>

(you may need to paste the address into your browser). In addition to John's family, please also remember Carlos Arias, John's boyfriend, in your thoughts.

John was one of the pillars of NAVA, along with Whitney Smith, the late Grace Cooper, and Scot Guenter. It is hard to comprehend that he will not be with us—in body at least—at NAVA's Forty-Sixth annual convention this October in his beloved Ohio. But we know he will be there with us in spirit.

Funeral and memorial services were held by John's family in Cincinnati and Cleveland. NAVA will hold a memorial service in Columbus on Friday, October 5, 2012, immediately before the annual convention. Surely John would smile to know that he was saluted in all three of Ohio's major cities!

If your organization or institution would like to convey any thoughts about John to be shared at the memorial service, please address them to NAVA in care of NAVA's president, Hugh Brady. The address is:

Mr. Hugh L. Brady
North American Vexillological Association
1977 North Olden Avenue Extension PMB 225
Trenton, New Jersey 08618-2193
USA

I encourage you to send any such letters no later than August 1st. John's family

also authorized NAVA to say that vexillologists are encouraged to make memorial contributions in John's name to NAVA's Grace Rogers Cooper Flag Conservation Fund.

As a final gift to the flag world,
John left his personal flag to Whitney Smith
and the Flag Research Center. He will be
sorely missed and remembered!

Sincerely,

Kin

Charles A. Spain, Jr. Past President (1996-1998) | Présidente sortante (1996-1998)

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