

A Lasting Legacy

VCU Establishes Scholarship in Memory of Marlles



Patty Kruszewski/Henrico Citizen

(Left to right) Justin Marlles, Margaret Barre, Robin Marlles, David Marlles and John Accordino celebrate the awarding of the first John Marlles Memorial Scholarship at the VCU Scott House.

By Patty Kruszewski

In his all-too-short 52 years, Jack R. "John" Marlles managed to leave his mark on Henrico County, the City of Roanoke and the Commonwealth of Virginia - to name just a few places.

On Nov. 11, Virginia Commonwealth University was officially added to the list of institutions bearing the Marlles imprint, as friends, family and admirers gathered on campus to celebrate the es-

tablishment of the John Marlles Memorial Scholarship. Those who attended the reception at the Scott House also saw the scholarship awarded to its first recipient, Margaret Barre - a top student in the Master's in Urban and Regional Planning Program (MURP).

"I'm inspired by John Marlles' work," said Barre, adding that she looked forward to the day when she can put her education to work and help carry out Marlles' ideals.

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Costa Canavos, who worked under Marlles' direction in Henrico County, noted that the VCU and Urban Land Institute (ULI) Richmond District Council co-sponsors of the reception plan to make it an annual event - "so people down the road can learn about John."

A 1983 graduate of the MURP, Marlles began his planning career a few years earlier with the Virginia Dept. of Housing and Community Development.

As far back as 1979, said John Accordino, associate professor at the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, Marlles realized what a lot of government officials had yet to grasp.

"He realized," said Accordino, "that with the post-war boom, Virginia's historic downtowns were really under pressure."

see **MARLLES**, p. 12

LAYAWAY NOW
FOR CHRISTMAS!

FAMILY FUN DAYS ARE HERE!!

CREDIT CRUNCH?
NOT HERE!

LOCAL BRIEFS

WOODY M.S.

A Sept. 18 Henrico Citizen article titled "Recycling s," Henrico County and the Central Virginia Waste Authority (CVWMA) recently expanded curbside recycling to most single-family homes in the county. About Henrico can now take advantage of this recycling suits in more than 1,000 tons of recycled materials

Moody Middle School doing its part to help the environment. The school's Ecology Club created the following link: www.henricocitizen.com/lotze_r/ecologyclub/Welcome.html, which club, provides updated information about various s MMS's monthly student produced e-newsletter.

Ecology Club sponsors, shared that Ecology Club members in the neighborhood, offering free e-mail subscriptions. Moody Middle School was the recipient of a one-school pilot program, in which a recycling bin has been placed for collection of paper products.

A monthly clean-up day is being organized to show that we can make the world a better place. In a recent Ecology Club sponsors, shared his thoughts about the future, saying, "You could say that it's a passion of

the purpose of what the Ecology Club is doing; "It is not just about cleaning up, but also helping teens help the environment," he said. In the future, there will be more jobs that involve ecology. Ecology Club members, Moody students are not only helping the environment, but also helping for their futures!

Sponsor 'Home for the Holidays'

820 AM recently launched their 'Home for the Holidays' campaign to bring families and troops together for the holidays. Listeners can call 1-800-717-2007 to send greetings to troops serving around the world. The campaign runs from Oct. 7 to Nov. 26 to record their messages. Listeners can also call 1-800-717-2007 to record their messages online at EZfmradio.com and AMEN820.com. The program is broadcast each day on both stations and internet feeds leading up to New Year's Day.

ext. 113.

Marlles

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Seeing the need for measures that would help cities retain their historic fabric and at the same time breathe new life into the downtown economy, Marlles urged Virginia officials to enlist in a pilot program known as Main Street Revitalization.

When he could not gather enough support for the Main Street program, Marlles founded his own: the Virginia Downtown Development Association. Today, both the private, non-profit VDDA and the state-run Main Street organization enjoy a strong Virginia presence.

Marlles also spent 11 years in Roanoke as chief of the Department of Planning and Community Development, and was a leader in the effort to restore the aging Hotel Roanoke to its former glory.

In 1998 he returned to Richmond to direct the Planning Department for the County of Henrico. Not only did he create a new Department of Community Revitalization in Henrico, and become its first director, but he also brought the enterprise zone concept to the area. "John's fingerprints are all over the beginning of that," said Accordino of the enterprise zone, which offers incentives to invest in areas where businesses need a boost.

"Somewhere in there," added Accordino admiringly, "he also managed to get his master's degree. . . Anyone

else would be proud to have just *one* of these accomplishments. John did it all."

After Marlles died of leukemia in 2005, the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association (VAPA) and ULI joined with VCU to establish the scholarship, which will be awarded annually to a graduate student enrolled in the MURP. Proceeds from the Nov. 11 reception, which was attended by Marlles' wife Robin and sons David and Justin, benefited the newly endowed scholarship fund.

But perhaps the ultimate tribute to Marlles, noted Accordino, is that whenever his name comes up at conferences and other events, it is invariably accompanied by an expression of what a "great human being" Marlles was.

"Planners are out there working through difficult issues, so people's emotions get involved," said Accordino. "Most [planners] are going to rub someone the wrong way.

"John blazed all these new trails and did groundbreaking work, but the guy was just so incredibly nice and warm.

"To be a planner and not have an enemy, that's a neat trick."

For information on making a gift to the John Marlles scholarship fund, visit vaplan.org/pdfs/VAPA-MarllesScholarship.pdf.

Contact Patty Kruszewski at pkruszewski@henricocitizen.com

WORD INDER

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J D H L B F Q R G
P U L Q S H N U J
S D K C T E G O Z

THANKSGIVING EVENTS

Thanksgiving Day is a day of good food ...and parades ...and football games. Identify the cities in which the parades are held and the nicknames of the football teams.

1. "McDonald's Thanksgiving Day Parade"
2. Texas Longhorns vs. Texas A&M _____
3. "America's Thanksgiving Parade".
4. Notre Dame Fighting Irish vs. USC _____
5. "America's Hometown Thanksgiving Parade"
6. Ole Miss _____ vs. Mississippi State Bulldogs

Congratulations to **JENNIFER NETTINGTON**, who solved the Nov. 6 puzzle and faxed in the correct answers.

If you'd like to see your name here in our next issue, be one of the first to fax the correct answers to this week's puzzle to 262-7731.

Good luck!

ANSWERS