



Dedicated to Thomas J. Lauro



Thomas J. Lauro
1951-2020

On April 22, 2020, due to complications from COVID-19, we lost a wonderful NYWEA member and friend, Thomas J. Lauro. For someone who dedicated his life to water quality and the environment, Tom's passing on Earth Day is somehow a tribute, a way we will always remember him.

Tom was a graduate of Manhattan College, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Engineering, a Master of Environmental Engineering, and was a New York State Licensed Professional Engineer and Grade 4A certified wastewater operator. He served in the New York Army National Guard from 1972 to 1978. After working as a consultant, Tom joined Westchester County's Department of Environmental Facilities in 1980 where he worked at all seven wastewater facilities over his career. Because of his leadership and technical skills, he was appointed to Commissioner by multiple County Executives and served from 2007 to 2017. He was an avid New York Mets and New York Jets fan, loved golf and served as a volunteer for the St. Vincent de Paul Society at Transfiguration Parish in Tarrytown. He raised awareness and funds for NYWEA, he was a supporter of Concern Worldwide (concernusa.org), a humanitarian non-profit organization that works with the poorest people on the globe to transform their lives and recover from disaster. A loving husband, father and proud grandfather, Tom's great sense of humor, kindness and ability to fix just about anything will also be missed by his large extended family and his many treasured friends.

As many of you know, Tom's dedication to NYWEA was incredible. He was a member for over 40 years and he served as President of NYWEA in 2007. As a further demonstration of his commitment, he served as Assistant Treasurer from 2010 to 2014 and Treasurer from 2014 to 2018 after which he was elected to serve as Treasurer Emeritus. He also held several leadership positions in the Lower Hudson Chapter. Not only was he an ex-officio member of NYWEA's Finance Committee, he was working with his fellow alumni from Manhattan College to make sure an article was featured in the Summer 2020 *Clear Waters* on its new lab. Tom was also a routine participant in the Utility Executives and Government Affairs Committee meetings. He worked with elected officials and the environmental advocacy community representing the interest of our utilities across the state. Tom's passion for communicating NYWEA's clean water mission was evident when he attended the WEF Washington, D.C. Fly-ins.

Tom received numerous awards from NYWEA, including being inducted into the Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers and the Golden Manhole Society. His dedication to NYWEA's mission ran deep, as he was also involved in reviewing the scholarship finalists. For those of us who have worked with Tom over the years, you know what a beautiful soul he was. Generous and thoughtful, Tom was one of the foundational supporters of the organization's scholarship program.

Renaming the Member Education Program gives us a lasting memory of him and inspires us to do such good as Tom did.