



## John Ambrose Ford

August 7, 2008

Obituary of John Ambrose Ford John Ambrose Ford, of Pawleys Island, South Carolina, died on August 7, 2008, in the Intensive Care Unit of Georgetown Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Anna Maria Ford, teacher of English, ESL, French, and Spanish at Howard Adult Education Center in Georgetown County survives him. They first met in 1968 at Chrysler's World Headquarters in Highland Park, Michigan, while he was vice president of public relations and she was contracted, under the joint auspices of Chrysler's Academic Affairs Division and Highland Park Community College, to develop French and Spanish programs for the corporation's top level executives. He remained her student in the French program for nine consecutive years until he took an early retirement and left Michigan. Although their paths diverged, they remained friends despite the distance and circumstances separating them, reconnected in 1996, and married in 1997. Son of John A. Ford and Mabelle Loomis Ford, he was one of ten children born to this devoted couple in New Haven, Connecticut. He was born on June 21, 1920, the oldest of five boys in the family, with five sisters all older than he. He received a scholarship to Yale College in New Haven and graduated from there in 1941 at age twenty. Early in 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, and served for more than four years as combat intelligence staff officer during which time he received various decorations and citations: American Theater Service Medal, Asiatic Pacific Theater Service Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. He left the service in 1946 with the rank of captain after an extended tour of duty in the South

Pacific Okinawa, Japan; Guam; Saipan. Following the war, he began graduate studies at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, receiving an M. A. in journalism in 1948, and continued to pursue a Ph.D. in English. During his years at Iowa, he taught full time: first, communication skills; then, English; and, finally, journalism. There, he met his first wife, the mother of his six children whom he loved very much and of whom he was extremely proud. Just before completing his Ph.D. requirements, he accepted an offer from Pillsbury Mills, headquartered in Minneapolis, to join that company as editorial director in 1953. Five years later, in 1958, he became public relations director for American Cyanamid Co. in New York City. In 1963, he joined Chrysler Corporation as vice president of public relations, the first individual to hold that post. He later was promoted first to vice president for administration and then, later, to executive vice president for administration. At the close of 1975, he retired from Chrysler. After two years of retirement, he accepted an offer from Hill & Knowlton, the largest public relations and communications company in the country, at that time, to become a senior vice president and director of their Dallas office. In 1978, he was named managing director of the South/Southwest region of that company. He retired again in 1985 and moved to the Eastern Shore of Maryland, where he could pursue his lifelong love of sailing. Mr. Ford has been active in a number of civic, professional, and industry groups, including the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association, where he chaired the public relations committee, the Public Relations Society of America, and the University of Detroit public relations advisory committee. He also served as vice chairman of the Detroit Chamber of Commerce. Throughout his life, a member and habitué of country clubs, he belonged to quite a few wherever his professional journey took him: Yale Country Club in New Haven, Connecticut; Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Hills and Detroit Athletic Club, both in Michigan; Burnt Store Country Club in Punta Gorda, Florida; Northwood Country Club in Dallas, Texas; and, finally, locally, the River Club and Litchfield Country Club in Pawleys Island. He also enjoyed membership in the Yale Cl



# Tribute Wall



“ Dear Anna Maria, I would like to offer my heartfelt condolences to you and John's Family. Only time moves on to the next scene. Memory remains part of the heart forever. Love,##imported-begin##Jolanta Kukowska-Latallo##imported-end##

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August 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dearest Anna Maria, It has saddened me so much to read about John's passing. I know that you shared such happy years together. Take time to grieve, to retell his stories, and to also celebrate his wonderful life. Love always, Mary##imported-begin##Mary Cannon Tolson##imported-end##

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August 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Very sorry ro hear of John's passing. I first met John after Anna Maria told me she was engaged. He came to Grosse Pointe for an introduction to friends and family. He impressed me as a true gentleman in every way.##imported-begin##Frank Kenny##imported-end##

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August 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I was so sorry to hear of John's death. I didn't know him for a long time but knew he was a special man. I enjoyed our morning talks over breakfast when we stayed at the house. He always had something interesting to say about the news of the day. He will be missed. Although I can't be there for the services, I will be there in thought and prayer.##imported-begin##Mary Sue Lutz##imported-end##

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August 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ John will be missed by everyone.##imported-begin##Alexis Sky##imported-end##

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August 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ We first met John and Anna Maria Ford four years ago when we moved from WV to SC. Instantly, we became very dear friends. We will truly miss John!##imported-begin##Calette Smith & Alfred Rogers##imported-end##

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August 08, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ When our hearts are saddened by the loss of one we love, the courage that we truly need comes only from above. But Please find comfort in knowing that you are in our thoughts and prayers. We pray that you will find renewed strength in knowing that your pain is being shared by your friends and loved ones. May God's love and grace provide courage during this time and always.##imported-begin##Marjorie & Morris Plant##imported-end##

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August 08, 2008 at 12:00 AM