

MARGERY HOWE ERAMO
Recipient of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award

Each year, the John J. Cronin Public Service Award committee awards this high honor to an individual who has served the Town of Westwood. John J. Cronin, Town Treasurer, for many years selflessly gave of his time and expertise for the betterment of the community both as an elected official and in numerous volunteer activities. To recognize this same spirit of community involvement as illustrated by John Cronin's life, it is with great pleasure that we have chosen Margery Howe Eramo as the eleventh recipient of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award.

Marge Eramo has displayed devoted service, dedication and commitment to the Town of Westwood. Through her service on numerous Town boards and organizations, Marge has made valuable contributions to the Westwood community and the Commonwealth.

Marge is a born and raised Westwood resident, graduating from Westwood High School in 1954. A lifelong resident of Westwood, Marge raised her two children, Margery Jane Eramo Young and Philip Joseph Eramo Jr. both of whom still live in Westwood.

In 1957, Marge graduated from Massachusetts General Hospital School of Nursing where she then went on to be employed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in Program Administration for over 24 years. After retirement, Marge continues to serve on the Board of Directors for the Massachusetts General Hospital Nurses' Alumni Association. She maintains a close relationship with MGH Institute of Health Profession by serving on various boards and committees including the Anniversary Gala Committees.

From 1983 to 1985, the Town of Westwood's Board of Selectmen established a Charter Study Review Committee to which Marge was appointed. The Committee was assigned the task of reviewing the Charter and proposing recommendations to Town Meeting. In 1984, Town Meeting approved various housekeeping amendments and the Committee continued its focus on changes to the reorganization of the maintenance and construction departments, reorganization of the financial operations and revision of the functions and responsibilities of the Executive Secretary.

In February of 1986, the Westwood Board of Selectmen appointed Marge to serve on its newly established Westwood Youth Commission. The Commission was charged with assessing, identifying and programming the needs of the youth of the community including person's physical, social and emotional needs. Marge was selected to serve as the Commission's first Vice-Chairman and then as Chairman and during her tenure, oversaw the selection of the first Director, the creation of the Commission's bylaws and student representation on the Commission. She set the Commission on a strong foundation to becoming a well-established, highly respected advocate for youth and family needs in the Westwood community. During that same time, Marge represented the Youth Commission on a School Education Review Committee established by Superintendent Ash.

Marge has been a dedicated Election Official for many years as the Warden in Precinct 2 at the Sheehan School. Marge supervises the election process at the precinct ensuring that the election is run efficiently so that all voters have the opportunity to cast their ballots in a professional atmosphere in accordance with all state and federal regulations. Marge also supervises the check-in process at Annual Town Meeting for all precincts.

Marge has long been a health care advocate and has served her entire professional career as a Registered Nurse. Marge has worked with all of the Public Health Nurses employed with the Town of Westwood since 1990, volunteering at flu clinics before it became a part of emergency preparedness. After her retirement in 2006 from the Massachusetts Department of Health, Marge became an official member of the Medical Reserve Corps where she continued her role immunizing residents and their children for the flu. In this role, Marge participates in all training opportunities, meetings, drills and attended the annual Massachusetts Reserve Corps conference this past March.

Marge's community involvement has been especially noteworthy with respect to the First Parish Church here in Westwood. Marge became the Faith Community Nurse nine years ago after completing studies at the Andover Newton Theological School. In that role, she serves in a volunteer capacity as a member of the ministry staff, promoting health and healing within the faith community. Specifically, she provides health counseling, education, and advocacy and recruits volunteers, develops support groups, and provides referrals to health and social care services. In addition, Marge has been a Trustee, was the first female Moderator, is currently a Deacon, and sings in the church choir.

Most recently, Marge has returned to her roots with Town government and was appointed to serve on the Government Study Task Force in 2009 that revised the Town Charter which was adopted in 2012. Subsequently, she served on the Town Bylaw Review Committee to update the Town's bylaws which are being proposed for adoption at this year's Town Meeting making them consistent with the newly adopted Charter. Marge also has participated in and served on the Roy London Humanitarian Award Committee which annually selects recipients of this award.

On behalf of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award Committee, it is with great pleasure that we present this prestigious award to Margery Howe Eramo and we add her name to the plaque which hangs in Town Hall of previously honored individuals.