

TRIBUTE

The loss of a loved one, friend, or respected community member is a life-changing experience. Though we are grateful for the precious time that we have shared in our lives with them, we are never truly prepared for the loss of a beloved son, husband, father, brother, family member, friend and admired community leader as was Douglas Heller. Douglas passed too soon from this life on Friday, May 25, 2012 at the age of 57. His loss is most deeply felt.

Doug Heller, was a chronicler of Philadelphia's and America's history and a tireless advocate of educating our youth in order to strengthen our civil society and build pride in being an American citizen, as well as a citizen of Philadelphia.

A resident of Flourtown, Pennsylvania, Doug contributed to scores of collaborative programs and creative projects that gave Philadelphians greater access to the region's historical and cultural resources. He possessed a remarkable talent to transform bold ideas into reality and made an indelible imprint on the global profile of our City and region.


For over two decades, Doug Heller made his talents available to historical organizations across the Delaware Valley. He created and maintained websites and databases for many institutions such as Hope Lodge and Carpenters' Hall, enabling them to achieve international recognition. He served on numerous Boards, including the Independence Hall Association (IHA) which led the effort to create Independence National Historical Park as a national monument. As an IHA leader, his legacy contribution of www.ushistory.org attracted over 3 million visitors a month with in depth details on the Revolutionary War and important civic heritage issues such as the discoveries made at the President's House commemorative site and the endeavors of our citizens and civic leaders in building this essential historic monument on Independence Mall. As a member of the annual Benjamin Franklin Celebration, Doug was instrumental in bringing national leaders to Philadelphia to honor Philadelphia's favorite founding father.

In 2005, Doug Heller joined the "Gang of 10" to advocate for Philadelphia's inclusion in National History Day (NHD) Program after a 25-year absence. Doug placed NHD on ushistory.org and the site became an invaluable education tool for Philadelphia's schools, teachers, and students. This website has since become a national resource and elevated the Philadelphia NHD participation to the largest program in Pennsylvania while showcasing our City's success in improving educational outcomes. Philadelphia's students taking part in the website project category have secured places in the Pennsylvania NHD delegation and advanced to national NHD competition. Doug served as an NHD judge and mentor for seven years.

It is fitting and appropriate, therefore, that the City of Philadelphia officially recognize with this Tribute

DOUGLAS J. HELLER

and join with his beloved wife, Nancy, his dear family, friends and colleagues in mourning the loss of this remarkable, spirit-driven man. May you take comfort in the knowledge that his dedication to the education of our youth and the integrity that guided his every action will live on to inspire all who knew and loved him.



Michael A. Nutter
Mayor

