

March 7, 2009

## Patrick Toomey, Milford Community and National Leader, dies at 58.

Patrick Toomey, one of Milford, Ohio's most committed community servants and a national leader in the natural products industry, died from colon cancer on March 6, 2009 at home with his wife Mimi.

He was 58 years old and this was a tragic loss for not only his family, but for the entire community.

While he served as president of the largest international trade association dedicated to natural products, he also operated a health food store serving Milford and the surrounding community for more than 34 years.

The current president of the Natural Products Association, who served with Toomey on various board committees and task forces over the years, praised his leadership:

"Pat was elected to the presidency during a time of great transition for the association," said Debra Short, president of the Natural Products Association. "Pat's legacy will be his vision to take the association to the next level through his infectious enthusiasm and dedication. He continues to be a beacon for achievement and we will always be grateful to him."

As a member of the Milford community, where he lived and worked, Toomey was a dedicated volunteer and civic leader. Last year he received Clermont County's 20/20 award for his vision and dedication to civic issues. Since 1980, he served on the Milford Miami Township Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, including four terms as president. He had been a long-term volunteer in Milford's annual Frontier Days, including acting as chair seven times. The Milford Community Fire Department also benefited from Toomey's leadership for more than 23 years as a member of its board of directors. And, for more than 17 years, Toomey was a member of the Milford Planning Commission. "You cannot drive the streets of Milford without seeing something that Pat touched and made better with his selfless service to the community. Commented Jeff Lykins, a long time friend.

Pat Toomey was born in Portsmouth, Ohio, on November 10, 1950, and moved to Cincinnati with his family when he was a young boy. He spent the rest of his life here. He received his Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Cincinnati in 1973.

When he became interested in the benefits that natural products could bring in maintaining and improving health, Toomey opened Toomey's Natural Foods in Milford. His long-time partner in business and life, his wife Mimi, first met Toomey here in December 1993. There were very few health food stores in the community at the time and Toomey believed he was providing an important health service to the community. His enthusiasm for natural products never waned as he worked his way from regional to national boards in promoting the benefits of natural products.

In addition to his wife and companion of 15 years, Mimi, Toomey's survivors include his daughter and son-in-law Traci and Josh DeBra; siblings Mike Toomey, Becky "Missy" Smith, Katrina Shepherd and the late Tim Toomey; and six grandchildren.

Visitation is from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, at Evans Funeral Home in Milford; the funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 11 at St. Andrew Church, Milford.