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Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum recognizes Van Fleet for 24 years of service

Helen Van Fleet of St. Michaels has recently been honored for 24 years of service to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CBMM). Van Fleet currently serves as education assistant and coordinates the Museum's involvement with the Academy of Lifelong Learning.

Van Fleet joined the Museum in 1986, beginning as a fundraising assistant as part of the visitor services team. She later worked as the volunteer coordinator for over 18 years, helping to bring more than 800 volunteers on board at the Museum.

"If you've worked at this Museum as a staff member or a volunteer, it's impossible to imagine the Museum without Helen," commented CBMM's Facilities Manager John Ford. "She helps support every aspect of this place and truly helps make the Museum tick. I should mention that although Helen has been a part of the Museum for a very long time, the rumors that she was a personal friend of Capt. John Smith are completely unfounded." Ford went on to comment that Van Fleet often serves as a surrogate mother for new and long-time staff members, and can be counted on to help in any way needed.

Van Fleet's commitment to the community runs equally deep. She is a 22-year volunteer with Christmas in St. Michaels, serves on the Tourism Board and the Waterways Commission for the Town of St. Michaels and is a past-treasurer and current volunteer with the St. Michaels Business Association. She has previously volunteered with Friends of Hospice's Festival of Trees, the Waterfowl Festival, St. Michaels Community Center, St. Michaels Volunteer Fire Department, the Miles River Yacht Club, Habitat for Humanity of Talbot County, the St. Michaels Planning Commission and its Board of Appeals. A resident of St. Michaels since 1985, Van Fleet is also the owner/operator of The Fleets Inn bed and breakfast in St. Michaels.

"The Maritime Museum is obviously a big part of my life," said Van Fleet. "The friendliness and sense of community from our volunteers, staff members and visitors keeps the Museum a vital asset of St. Michaels. It's something I'm very proud to be a part of."

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PHOTO ATTACHMENTS:



Helen Van Fleet of St. Michaels, considered the "Mom of the Museum," was recently honored for her 24 years of service to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum



A photo of Van Fleet (left), along with Leslie Guthrie Grunden and Michael Armory, as it appeared in a 1986 Museum newsletter announcing the three as new staff members.