



# Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **HCPS mourns loss of Board President Wheeler**

Harford County Public Schools Board President Leonard D. Wheeler, Ed.D., died suddenly on Tuesday, September 11, 2012.

Dr. Wheeler has served as a member of the Board of Education of Harford County since 2008. He began his second consecutive year as president of the Board earlier this summer. Dr. Wheeler was a retired teacher, curriculum specialist, principal and assistant superintendent of the Baltimore City Public Schools. He was also a retired associate professor in the Department of Education at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland.

“Dr. Wheeler was an advocate for education and dedicated his life’s work to community service,” said Superintendent of Schools Robert M. Tomback. “All of us in the Harford County Public Schools are deeply saddened by the loss of Dr. Wheeler, and, on behalf of our more than 5,000 employees, I extend my sincere condolences to Dr. Wheeler’s family.”

In addition to his service as a member of the Board of Education of Harford County, Dr. Wheeler was an active member of Ames United Methodist Church, the Harford County Judicial Nominating Committee, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), among other public organizations, and he humbly accepted many civic, community, and professional awards and citations throughout his career.

“Dr. Wheeler was a kind-hearted, intelligent man who touched the lives of many through his selfless dedication to serving others,” said Board of Education Vice President Rick Grambo. “We became good friends, and I am going to miss him. He was a great mentor, and his service to our school system will be greatly missed.”

Dr. Wheeler was a man of extraordinary achievement whose dedication to students was evident in every decision he made. He cared deeply about every employee and had high expectations for both students and staff. He was highly respected and admired by his peers throughout the state of Maryland.

“I am deeply saddened by the news of the unfortunate passing of Dr. Leonard D. Wheeler,” said Harford County Executive David R. Craig. “Dr. Wheeler had a distinguished career as an educator and served with distinction and integrity as a member of the Board of Education. Dr. Wheeler worked tirelessly to help make Harford County Public Schools one of the finest school systems in our state.”

Dr. Wheeler is survived by his wife, a former assistant superintendent of the Harford County Public School system and who currently is the superintendent of the Kent County Public School system, Dr. A. Barbara Wheeler of Chestertown, MD; sons, Christopher D. Wheeler of Bel Air, MD and Leonard B. Wheeler of Baltimore, MD; daughters, Evangeline Wheeler and Vell Wheeler, both of Baltimore, MD; brothers, John and Warren Wheeler; sisters, Clarene Wheeler, Debrah Wheeler and Jackie Anderson, all of Baltimore, MD; and grandchildren, Zari Wheeler, Rebecca Karema and Rachel Muhammad, all of Baltimore, MD. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brother, Eddie Wheeler.

A public viewing will be Monday, September 17, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Ames United Methodist Church, 112 Baltimore Pike, Bel Air, Maryland. The funeral is the next day Tuesday, September 18, at 10:00 a.m. at the same location. Interment will be at Arbutus Memorial Park in Baltimore.

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