



Bristol Township

Office of the Township Manager

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Township Manager William J. McCauley, III announced today the untimely passing of Council President Bob Lewis. "It is with the deepest regret that I report the death of Council President Bob Lewis," he said. Lewis was found dead in his Croydon home this morning. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bob's wife, Laura, daughter Susan, and his large extended family."

Lewis served as a Bristol Township Commissioner in the 1970's and 1980's before returning as a Council member in 2010. In 2012, he joined with four like-minded local businesspersons, newly elected to Council, known as the "Pro Team". He was elected Township Council President and led the legislative body from 2012 until his death.

According to Council Vice-President Troy Brennan, Lewis relished his role as the leader of the Council and "Pro Team". "Bob shared our vision that Bristol Township could have a professionally run local government that served its taxpayers and not a select few politicians;" he said. Brennan said that citizens thought this lofty goal was impossible when they started, but was realized with the guidance of Lewis. "Bob was a truly lucky man; he had a wonderful family, he lived to see his dream come true, and he went out on top," he said.

Council member Craig Bowen said Lewis' loss was going to be a terrible blow to the Township. "Bob was our historian, leader, and the captain of the team," he said. Bowen said that Lewis ran for the Township Council in 2009 after being out of office since the early 80's because of his belief in good government. "Bob loved his family, Croydon, Bristol Township, politics, and sports," he said. Bowen said that Lewis' contributions to Bristol Township would live on for years to come.

Amber Longhitano, elected to Council in 2011, said that Bob Lewis' leadership and guidance when she took office was invaluable. "One of Bob's strengths was his ability to bring people together and he managed to keep six other strong personalities moving in the same direction," she said. Longhitano said that Lewis could be mortal enemies with another politician one election and the next year they would have a beer together. "He was a great guy and will be sorely missed," she said.

McCauley said that flags at all Township facilities would be flown at half-mast in honor of Lewis. "In a day and age when it is difficult to get people involved in their local government, Bob Lewis will be greatly missed," he said. "We lost one of the great ones," he concluded.

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