

American Water Resources Association New Jersey Section Peter Homack Award

Peter Homack, 1917-1984

Peter Homack is remembered as an outstanding engineer, an inspiring leader and a dedicated supporter of his many educational, environmental and technical interests – foremost among them, water resources.



During a career which spanned five decades, Mr. Homack was involved in virtually all aspects of water resources engineering – master planning and facilities planning, water supply treatment, distribution and storage, wastewater management, flood control and storm drainage. He was a contributor to numerous water resources projects which have improved the quality of life for New Jersey residents to this day.

Peter Homack's commitment to Killam Associates encompassed his entire professional career. After discharge from the US Navy in 1945, he joined the young engineering firm as Assistant Engineer. In his 38 years with the firm, he rose through the ranks to President in 1964 and Chairman of the Board in 1977. He retired in 1983.

Peter Homack's selfless dedication to institutions which shaped his life is also demonstrated by his affiliation with the New Jersey Institute of Technology. He graduated with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1940. He continued his involvement with NJIT for the rest of his career, serving on the Civil Engineering Department's Advisory Committee and the Institute's Board of Overseers. In recognition of his service, he received the Edward F. Weston Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1973 and an honorary Doctorate of Engineering Degree in 1978.

Peter Homack's interests led to participation in numerous organizations, including the American Water Resources Association. He was instrumental in the founding of the New Jersey Section, serving as Secretary, vice President and President. The AWRA was a favorite activity, and he constantly recruited new members while maintaining personal involvement.

Peter Homack's interest in people, his knowledge of water resources, his advocacy of causes he believed in and his commitment to ensuring that institutions and organizations he cared about would thrive and endure, made Peter Homack a most exemplary member of the American Water Resources Association. We at the New Jersey Section recognize him as such with this award, named in his memory, and presented each year to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution in the field of water resources. Receipt of the Peter Homack Award is, indeed, a high honor.



NJ-AWRA
*Challenging Water Resources
Professionals in the 21st Century*

Peter Homack Awardees 1987-2012

1987: William Whipple, Jr.
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

1988: William Goldfarb, PhD
Rutgers University

1989: Rocco D. Ricci
NJ Water Supply Authority

1990: Hermia Lechner
South Branch Raritan Watershed Association

1991: Donald E. Vaupel
United States Geological Survey

1992: Peggy Haskin
NJ Water Supply Authority, NJ Pollution RESPONSE
NJ League of Women Voters

1993: David C. Yaeck
Chester County Water Resources Authority

1994: Peggy D. McNeill
Mercer County Soil Conservation District

1995: Robert M. Hordon, PhD, PH
Rutgers University

1996: Dean C. Noll, PE
North Jersey District Water Supply Commission

1997: Ellis S. Vieser
NJ Alliance for Action, NJ Wastewater Treatment Trust

1998: Gerald M. Hansler
Interstate-Federal Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)

1999: Thomas G. Baxter
NJ Water Supply Authority

2000: Haig F. Kasabach, CPG
New Jersey Geological Survey

2001: John Gaston
Stony Brook Millstone Regional Sewerage Authority

2002: Joseph Skupien, PE
Somerset County Engineering

2003: Shing Fu Hsueh
West Windsor Township
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

2004: Dirk C. Hofman, PE
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

2005: James C. Amon
Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission

2006: Vernon Noble
Green Brook Flood Control Commission

2007: Theodore Chase
Franklin Township municipal volunteer,
Rutgers University

2008: Robert Schopp
USGS (retired)

2009: Raymond Zabihach
Morris County Planning Board (retired)

2010: Daniel J. Van Abs
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, NJ
Water Supply Authority, NJ Highlands Council

2011: James Cosgrove
Omni Environmental

2012: Stephen J. Souza, PhD

Peter Homack Awardee 2013

Todd W. Kratzer, PE (posthumously awarded)

The Peter Homack Award recognizes an individual who contributed to a multidisciplinary understanding of water resources, promoted and maintained high quality water resources, made a contribution to partnerships among individuals from diverse disciplines, and contributed beyond the scope of their primary emphasis. Trained as a water resources engineer, Todd's work expanded far beyond traditional engineering projects. He used his knowledge of water quality modeling and monitoring techniques to guide implementation projects, many of which required him to bring together scientists and engineers from various disciplines to develop water resource protection and improvement projects, and then to work with municipal officials and landowners to implement those projects.

With the Pennsylvania district of the U.S. Geological Survey, he developed flood maps for over 130 rivers in Central Pennsylvania. In 1987 he joined the Delaware River Basin Commission focusing on water quality and quantity projects. Working on watershed studies that assessed the effects of point and nonpoint source pollution, he developed and implemented innovative techniques to monitor water quality, worked with the Scenic Rivers Monitoring Program to conduct cooperative monitoring to support antidegradation standards, developed data for new and revised antidegradation regulations for the Lower Delaware River, and participated in the development of several New Jersey stormwater rules and rules pertaining to groundwater recharge.

In 2004, Todd joined the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection as an Environmental Engineer. His work laid the foundation for many of the total maximum daily load (TMDL) calculations that are the basis of water quality and quantity improvement projects today. He participated in the development of modeling and monitoring techniques for various pollutants that are still used for TMDL development.

Joining the New Jersey Water Supply Authority in 2006 as a Senior Watershed Protection Specialist, Todd's work included the development and implementation of the Lockatong & Wickecheoke Watershed Restoration & Protection Plan to control and prevent stormwater runoff in rural watersheds underlain by shallow soils and fractured bedrock. He also worked to track down and identify water quality impairment issues within the Manasquan Water Supply System, and collaborated on the NJDEP Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual and with the New Jersey Water Monitoring Coordinating Council.