

Shippensburg Library is Beneficiary of Generous Donation

On Tuesday evening, May 7, the Shippensburg Library Board of Trustees learned some very exciting news. The trustees were alerted to the fact that Jo Anne Coy has committed to a very significant pledge. This pledge will be spread over five years and meets the requirements for a naming opportunity. Jo Anne's purpose with this pledge is to honor her husband of 44 years, Jeff Coy, who passed away on June 4th, 2018. The library will be renamed the Jeffrey W. Coy Public Library of Shippensburg.

Jo Anne shared her reasoning in making this generous gift. She said, "Jeff was born here in Shippensburg, grew up in Shippensburg, attended college in Shippensburg and never left his hometown. From his early years to his final days, he played an active role in his community. He never forgot his roots." Jo Anne illustrated this by sharing some facts from Jeff's special story. He grew up on Lurgan Avenue above the M & N restaurant owned and operated by his parents. The Coys owned the vacant lot adjacent to the restaurant and later sold it to the West End Fire Company where Jeff served as president for 15 years. He began playing the organ in various churches at age 16 and played in his home church, Memorial Lutheran, for 44 years. He continued to serve Shippensburg significantly through his tenure as state representative for the 89th District for 11 terms. Jeff was an active member in many local organizations and institutions such as the SU Council of Trustees, the Orrstown Bank Board of Directors, and the Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons.

Jo Anne shared that her husband, Jeff, was a humble man who often helped quietly and never expected recognition or thanks. "Now, as his wife, I want him to get his thanks and never be forgotten. This is my gift to him, not to be forgotten," stated Jo Anne. She continued to say that she feels overwhelmed with gratitude that she is financially able to do this. "The only reason I am able to make this gift is due to Jeff's prudent financial planning. Now I have the great opportunity of honoring my husband as well as serving the library," explained Jo Anne.

The recent community investments in the library have enabled greater and fuller service to our community. This is evidenced through the new children's wing opened in July 2017 and the increased programming currently being offered. Jo Anne's generous gift ensures that the library will be on solid footing to continue being a vibrant focal point of our community.