



**Retirement of Robert A. Marden
and
Dedication of 2011 Opera House Renovation and Expansion**

The Harold Alfond Foundation announces that, as of November 1, 2013, Robert A. Marden has retired as a board trustee. The Foundation extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to Bob for his many contributions and years of service, and wishes him all the best.

In Bob's honor, the Harold Alfond Foundation and the Waterville Opera House have dedicated the 2011 renovation and expansion of the Opera House to Robert A. Marden. Remarks of the Foundation's Chairman, Gregory W. Powell, at the October 22, 2013 dedication and reception are attached.



**Remarks of Gregory W. Powell
Harold Alfond Foundation**

**Reception Honoring Bob Marden at the Waterville Opera House
Waterville, Maine
October 22, 2013**

Thank you, Jimmy, and good evening Bob and Scoop, family, friends, trustees and special guests. On behalf of my fellow trustees, thank you all for joining us this evening in tribute to our friend, colleague and mentor, Bob Marden.

Harold Alfond first began supporting the Waterville Opera house over 14 years ago. He did so because of Bob Marden. As I will relate in more detail, it was a unique moment when the visual convergence of athletics and art sparked 14 years of support for the Waterville Opera House and the Foundation's \$2.3 million grant for its renovation.

With this history in mind, it is only fitting that we gather here at this place to pay tribute to Bob and dedicate the Opera House renovation in Bob's honor.

In 2005, on the porch of Bob's Boothbay summer home overlooking the harbor, Harold asked Bob to serve as a trustee of his Foundation. Harold knew his own days were short and he knew that Bob would carry on Harold's charitable work with an understanding that only a friendship of over a half century could bring and a skill that only a lifetime of accomplishment can teach.

Prominent lawyer, prosecutor, trustee, state senate president, state and community leader, chairman and member of countless business and charitable boards, golfer, sports enthusiast, musician and doodler, Bob Marden's diverse interests and talents were, and continue to be, as wide as they are extraordinary. And so, it is not surprising that Harold Alfond and Bob Marden were good friends and that Harold sought out Bob for valued counsel and advice for well over 50 years.

In 1989, upon receiving a bill from Bob for estate planning work he had done, Harold sent along a check with a brief note to Bob saying, “Since you work fast, I decided to pay fast.” And when Bob retired from the practice of law in 1997, Harold—who, so far as any of us knows, has never spoken well of a lawyer—wrote to Bob’s law partners, describing Bob as “a great source of counsel”, a “wonderful leader”, and “a man of action”—quick, decisive, and on target”. For Harold Alford, there could be no higher compliment to a mortal. For Harold to have spoken such words of a lawyer is like the parting of the Red Sea.

Since Harold’s passing in 2007, Bob has been a valued trustee of the Foundation: his counseling to the leadership of the Alford Youth Center; his reports on town matters; his historical perspective on Augusta and Waterville relations; the ongoing saga of the Waterville and Augusta airports; his renegotiation of the YMCA debt with bankers, which allowed the Waterville Boys & Girls Club to merge with the YMCA. Bob’s contributions have been many. Most of all, however, his unrelenting and courageous presence at all of our meetings was an invaluable connection to experiences and wisdom he shared with Harold Alford.

This evening, as we dedicate the Foundation’s gift and mark Bob’s retirement from our board at the end of this month, my fellow trustees and I do so with deep respect, gratitude, and admiration for his contributions, courage and commitment to the work we have done together.

Thank you, Bob.

In closing, I would like to take a moment to disclose for the first time publicly the true account of Harold Alford’s epiphany of the arts.

After years of sitting through monotonous meetings and hearings, Bob Marden had developed a wonderful skill as a doodler; Bob could draw the Mona Lisa if you gave him a pen and pad and put him in a room with a lot of hot air.

One Fall day in 1999, sitting at his card table in Belgrade overlooking Great Pond, Harold and I were working together reviewing grant requests, when we came upon an envelope from Bob. In the envelope were a sketch Bob had drawn and a request for money.

Knowing that Harold’s philanthropy had been almost exclusively for athletics, Bob’s letter urged Harold to “break out” of the “athletics” mold and make a grant to support the Waterville Opera House. Requests for money were legion. But it was Bob’s sketch that caught Harold’s eye. Bob, the consummate doodler, knowing a picture is worth a thousand words, had sketched out a detailed drawing of this building—historical landmark and home to the Waterville Opera House for over a century.

And there, draped elegantly over the building's front entry, Bob had drawn a giant athletic supporter.

What an epiphany! From that day forward, Harold and his Foundation have been enthusiastic supporters of the Waterville Opera House.

In tribute to Bob and to mark forever the epiphany of the arts he sparked in Harold, we are honored to unveil a photo portrait of Bob and Harold together on a golfing trip to Scotland.

