

## John M. Barry, Ph.D.

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is proud to present the 2008 Walter S. Mangold Award, its highest honor, to John M. Barry, Ph.D.

Environmental health professionals in his home state of North Carolina—and around the world—have looked to John as an instrumental leader of the field. His commitment to quality has been a core thread in his life, as seen in his accomplishments as director of the Mecklenburg County Department of Environmental Protection, as deputy director of the Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency, as an active participant and advocate for communities, and as technical editor of the *Journal of Environmental Health*.

People who have been inspired by his leadership say that John has always had the ability to see the big picture. Throughout his career, he has used his knowledge to develop innovative strategies for reducing or eliminating the impact of insults to the environment. In the international arena, he has shared his knowledge of environmental health and protection through Sister Cities International-sponsored trips to Poland, China, and Peru. Mayor Bogdan Zdrojewski of Wrocław, Poland, recognized him with an award for his work with the city on a plan for a sustainable future.

While serving as director of the Mecklenburg County Department of Environmental Protection, where he spent the largest portion of his career, John restructured the department. In the 1980s, he was at the forefront of a movement to reduce the dependence of local agencies on tax revenue by implementing a revenue base of fee structures and grants. He also knew that the success of a county's environmental health programs is measured by their impact on the community. In an era before community assessments were common, John had the vision to create and present an annual report to the community. The report demonstrated the association between the health status

On a scale of 1 to 10, the report received a score of 9.5. The report was published in 1985 and was a significant milestone in the history of environmental health in Mecklenburg County.