

JOHN W. SHEPPARD
Southwest Florida Community Foundation

John Sheppard was instrumental in founding the Southwest Florida Community Foundation along with a small group of civic leaders in 1976 and has been a trustee for almost 31 years, serving in the position of President twice and on many committees. Presently, he sits on the Executive Committee and lends his knowledge to many others. Along with being deeply involved with the Foundation at one time giving pro-bono counsel on everything from legal and financial issues to leadership and charitable intent, he is well-known in the community as a humanitarian who devotes his life to helping others.

John's family roots in Florida go all the way back three generations to the 1880s. Born in Lee County, Florida, he attended Fort Myers High School and went on to the University of Florida in Gainesville to earn his bachelors and law degrees. After graduation, John served in the U.S. Army for two years and then joined his father and uncle in their downtown Fort Myers law firm where he became one of Southwest Florida's foremost estate planning attorneys by completing Board Certification and Examination with First Class and becoming Board Certified by the Florida Bar Association in Estate Planning and Probate.

Over the years, while in private practice, his professional career saw him involved as President of the Lee County Bar Association and as Chairman of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission, Chairman of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee and a member of the Second District Court of Appeals Judicial Nominating Commissions as well as designated "A-V" (highest rating) by International Martindale Hubbell Law Directory, 1965-1992

Volunteering extensively for many, many years, John has been involved in these different roles and in receiving numerous awards:

- President, American Cancer Society
- President, Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce
- Elder and Chairman, Ministerial Relations Committee, First Presbyterian Church
- Elder at the Covenant Presbyterian Church
- Elder at the Pilgrims Church
- Adult Church School Teacher
- American Red Cross of Lee County Humanitarian Award in 2000
- Samaritan Lifeline Program at Covenant Presbyterian Church.
- Blood donor giving over 30 gallons since 1951

Writing and publishing books, has kept John busy since retiring, and he has also authored articles for the University of Florida Law Review, Florida Bar Journal. John and his wife, Ellen, are the parents of two sons: John Jr. (deceased); Andrew; and a daughter, Sandra; and six grandchildren, all located in the Fort Myers area.