



## Sad Loss of Colleague

It is with deep sadness that I pass along the news that our valued colleague Kathleen Schamel died at her home on June 17. Kathleen joined VA in 2006 as the Department's Federal Preservation Officer. During her decade with VA, she quietly worked largely behind the scenes to increase awareness of the agency's rich heritage and historic preservation requirements. Kathleen was much involved with planning for the replacement hospital in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, and efforts to save some of VA's most significant historic buildings especially at the Milwaukee VAMC. More recently, she was co-chair of the VA History and Archives Working Group which garnered SECVA support for a national history center at the Dayton VAMC.

Although preferring to avoid the spotlight, Kathleen was a longtime leader in the federal historic preservation field. Before VA, Kathleen served as the Federal Preservation Officer at the Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency. She worked at CEHP, Inc., a government relations and policy analysis firm representing archeologists. She was active in Women in Preservation (WIP) and mentored many young professionals.

Kathleen easily struck up conversations with anyone near her and always generously shared of her time to support multiple causes, from Veterans to animals. She skillfully and patiently guided me through my initiation as the VA's representative on the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation, and I know I will miss her both personally and professionally at upcoming meetings. Her wit, enthusiasm and sage advice will be missed by all at CFM, OALC, and across the historic preservation community in the VA.

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