**In Memoriam: Bridget O’Grady**

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Bridget O’Grady in the early hours of Tuesday, July 9th. As the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators’ (ASDWA) longest-serving employee (1993-2019), Bridget played an essential role in the implementation of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments, advocated passionately for the states’ and small systems’ perspectives, and was a steady source of knowledge for the entire drinking water community.

ABC Board Chair Chris McCordhad the opportunity to work with Bridget in the areas of operator certification and capacity development for 18 years, and remembers Bridget as “a mentor, a leader, and an advocate for the staff of state drinking water agencies and EPA alike. She was also a ‘challenger’ for both states and EPA, encouraging us to interact, discuss, debate, and develop solutions that went on to serve the public health and safe water. Bridget truly epitomized the value and leadership that an association should provide to their membership.”

“Simply put, Bridget was formidable in all she undertook,” reflects Paul Bishop, ABC President & CEO.  “From policy debates to cancer, she gave it her all.  She would debate you to the end of times, but sit down with you later over a glass of wine to share a laugh. Her life's work is a legacy of seeking what was in the best interest of all.  We miss her laugh and smile already, and will for years to come.”

In honor of her steadfast determination to tackle the “big issues” facing the industry and to navigate complex legislative channels to find sustainable solutions for programs, Bridget was the 2019 recipient of the Harris F. Seidel Lifetime Achievement Award, ABC’s premier award presented in recognition of outstanding lifetime contribution toward advancing the cause of certifying environmental professionals.

Bridget is survived by her two younger brothers, Shawn and Clancy, and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. Funeral arrangements are being made at Bliley’s Funeral Home (Central Chapel) in Richmond, Virginia.