



## **Mid Shore Community Mediation Center**

*Serving Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties*

300 Talbot Street, Suite 206

Easton, Maryland 21601

410-820-5553 [www.midshoremiation.org](http://www.midshoremiation.org)

### **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Cyndy Carrington Miller, Public Relations Consultant

410-770-9410, 443-521-2330 (cell)

July 12, 2010

## **Mediation Center Celebrates Birthday With Patriot Cruise**

Mid Shore Community Mediation Center celebrated its fifth birthday, and raised awareness of the organization's increasing success, with a fundraising cruise aboard the *Patriot* out of St. Michaels. About one hundred people enjoyed a dinner cruise on the Miles River while supporting the nonprofit organization's mission of peaceful conflict resolution.

Mediation Center President Philip Conner and Past President Peter Rohman welcomed the guests. Special thanks were given to the evening's sponsors, Patriot Cruises, Scossa Restaurant, Cooke's Hope Properties, Easton Bank & Trust, and Miles & Stockbridge.

Circuit Court Judge Broughton M. "Bo" Earnest was the celebration's special guest. In remarks to the gathering, he said, "The Eastern Shore is becoming a better place because of groups like Mid Shore Mediation." Judge Earnest noted that he has instituted mandatory mediation for every civil case that comes into his court, welcoming mediation services within the system.

He described the creation of a new Problem Solving Court, dealing with substance abuse and mental health problems in the community. Earnest said that, historically, drug abusers and

mental health patients have often ended up in jail, with Talbot County not immune to the resulting prison overcrowding.

Noting that he had never seen the problem in the community as he now sees it as a judge, Earnest said, "I am determined to do something about it."

The program emphasizes outpatient treatment for drug and mental health problems, along with mediation to help those re-entering the community from prisons. "Let's make sure that when they come back, we are doing something to keep them out of trouble," he said.

Judge Earnest thanked Talbot County Department of Correction's Captain Leone Tillman for his assistance in identifying inmates coming out of the Detention Center who can benefit from re-entry mediation's services.

Peter Rohman expressed his pride in Mid Shore Mediation's impact on the community. He encouraged guests to take advantage of the evening to learn more about the no-cost services the organization provides. Rohman noted that proceeds from the cruise will support increased efforts in re-entry mediation, outreach to schools, raising public awareness, and advanced training for mediators.

*For more information on mediation, to make a contribution, or to volunteer as a mediator, call Mid Shore Community Mediation Center at 410-820-5553 or visit [www.midshoremiation.org](http://www.midshoremiation.org).*

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