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Tom Harrison
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Northeastern North Carolina just lost a champion. Washington County resident, writer, photographer, visionary, leader and friend, Doward Jones Jr. passed away today from pneumonia.

His amazing photography has opened up a world to folks that otherwise would never know it existed. He captured for posterity many images of Northeastern North Carolina that have since disappeared - from businesses and barns to farmers and fishermen.

I have no idea how many magazine and newspaper articles he has written. But he has educated and entertained us with his thoughtful perspectives and humorous stories for decades. Doward certainly left his mark on the town of Plymouth, Washington County and beyond through his photography and writing.

Doward organized wooden boat shows as well as storytelling events called, Cowboys on the Water and later Fishy Tales. He solicited stories from local fisherman, hunters and characters where they shared their memories on the surrounding creeks, rivers and sound.

The Rail Switch Nature Trail and the newly dedicated Bear Track Landing were also projects in which Doward played a key role. He was an avid paddler and seemed happiest with a paddle in one hand and camera in the other.

His most recognizable legacy is the Roanoke River Maritime Museum and Lighthouse. Through his hard work and tenacity, we have a lighthouse, maritime museum and a collection of wooden boats that is loved by all. The maritime museum's event hall also serves the community for class reunions, wedding receptions and banquets. The lighthouse has served as a backdrop for countless weddings, engagement photos and prom photos.

Doward championed our community and devoted his life to promoting our uniqueness, beauty, natural resources and people. Our responsibility is to build on the foundation he helped lay. Visit his Facebook page to see more of his photography and to read his wit and wisdom. I picked out these pictures from his Facebook page.

Rest easy my friend. You have blessed us all!

Tom Harrison

Photo below taken by John Havel during the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society's 2015 Annual Keepers' Dinner held on Water Street in downtown Plymouth and hosted by Doward Jones.

That's Doward with his hand on the newly dedicated Albemarle Riverlight Trail map that he played a very large part in.

