



Harold C. Mears

March 3, 1950 - January 24, 2018

Seabrook – Harold C. “Harry” Mears, 67, of Seabrook and formally of Forked River, NJ, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at the Exeter Hospital surrounded by his loving and caring family.

He was born on March 3, 1950 in Lakewood, NJ, a son of the late Harold and Clara (Wioland) Mears.

Harry was raised in Forked River, NJ. He earned his Bachelor’s Degree from University of Rhode Island and his Master’s Degree from the University of Maine.

Harry was an avid traveler and was passionate about his grandchildren and time gardening with his partner Ric. Whether sledding with his grandson, Laszlo, or strolling his garden with his granddaughter, Ashlyn, his final years were filled with love and peace. He was passionate about his music, cherishing the times he DJ’ed for his daughter’s school dances and attending concerts with friends & family. Harry also loved the ocean. From his early years on the Jersey Shore, Harry’s path always led him back to the water. He recently retired from 40 years of service at NOAA as a fishery biologist and made the difficult decision to leave his work “family” and retire just weeks before his passing. He held cherished memories near the water with his nephew, “cousin Eddie” catching and selling killies and scooping large crabs

off the filings in the marina along the Forked River.

Harry is survived by his children, Colleen McGettrick and her husband, Brant of West Bridgewater, MA, Monica Kravets and her husband Vadim of Londonderry, NH, Kirsten Ross and her husband Matthew of Ft. Myers, FL and Erin Pollock and her husband Ben of Newton, NH, and his beloved partner Ricardo (Ric) Giraldo Franco. Harry left behind nine grandchildren: Laszlo, Ashlyn, Katja, Brynne, Anneka, Coleman, Lukas, KirstyElla and Donovan. Harry also had three beloved siblings Don (Deceased) (and Fran) Mears, Bob (Deceased) (and Jane) Mears, and Patricia "Patty" Faulkner.

Friends may visit from 2 to 4 PM on Sunday, January 28, 2018 in the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home – Crematory, 811 Lafayette Rd., Hampton. Services will be held at 4 PM in the funeral home immediately following the visitation. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The American Cancer Society.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **28**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory
811 Lafayette Road ·
Hampton, NH 03842
(603) 926-6500
info@remickgendron.com
<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

Prayer Service

JAN **28**. 4:00 PM (ET)

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811 Lafayette Road ·
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Tribute Wall



“ *Harold C. Mears*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *This is such sad news. And at the same time there is great joy in the memories good times shared and working together. Harry was a good friend in my days in Gloucester, and was a strong supporter of meaningful collaboration with the states when I was at ASMFC. At most of my other stops along the way there would be Harry, finding a way to smile, encourage and bring out the best in people. And when it came time to stick to principle, Harry was the man! He consistently made all of us better public servants, and happier people.*

Harry always reminded me of a quote from Paul McCartney that I shared once: "And in the end, the Love you take, is equal to the Love you make."

Bless you Harry, and thank you!

Jack Dunnigan - February 05, 2018 at 09:21 PM

BD

“ We are obviously saddened to hear of Harry's passing and disappointed that we didn't make his service. We remember watching the girls grow up at Windsor Courts and in Beverly and Rowley. Card games, Big Red, pounding on a shared apartment wall during Sox/Yankee games, the biggest X-Mas trees imaginable, the "devil child", tennis and camping are some of the good time memories that have flooded back since we heard. Colleen, Monica, Kirsten and Erin, hopefully you'll find peace and be able to remember the good times.

Brian and Gale Denis

Brian Denis - January 30, 2018 at 09:18 PM

MM

I have been angry for so long at his passing. The anger is finally fading and I just plain miss him. Thank you for the support. Thank you for helping me out when my car was in apparent disrepair. I will never forget your family and the times we shared whilst I was growing up.

Monica Mears - June 10, 2023 at 08:13 PM

PP

“ Dear Harry,

Goodbye my respected colleague and dear friend. Laura and I will miss you. I will especially miss that infectious smile you had that could lighten others days.

You will remain fondly in our hearts forever. I will still take that fishing trip we planned at your retirement party, and you will be there with me in my memories.

To your family, we are very sorry that you were taken away from them so quickly and too soon.

Paul Perra

paul perra - January 30, 2018 at 10:35 AM

DH

“ I am so very sorry to hear of Uncle Harry's passing. I have so many wonderful memories of him. I remember sitting on his bed upstairs in Grandpop's house, listening to his many cases of 45 records. He was always so patient & kind to me and would tell me about the artist and which songs were his favorites. I would dance around his bedroom and he would laugh at me & dance along too. Later, I remember spending summers with Aunt Frannie & Uncle Donnie and going out on the fishing boats. Harry would mate for Uncle Donnie when he was home from college in the summer and I remember again how patient and kind he was. I remember Harry & Karen getting married and his 4 precious little girls that he so adored. They moved away to Massachusetts and we no longer got to see everyone. In the last 15 or so years, he would try to get a visit in when he was down our way on business. We were only 10 years apart in age and I felt so close to him whenever we were together. I am heart broken to hear of his untimely passing. He loved his work and his family. He was indeed a very special man whom I loved and will miss. Prayers and condolences to his family, my Mom & Ric. <3



Debbie Hubbard - January 29, 2018 at 04:14 PM


Colleen
Mears
McGettrick

“ I'm not sure why these pictures didn't make it to the slideshow, but I wanted to share them with all of you..

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Colleen Mears McGettrick - January 29, 2018 at 06:21 AM

CO

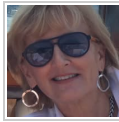
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Colleen - January 29, 2018 at 06:26 AM

DH

Thank you for sharing these pictures Colleen. We were away on vacation and I had no reception/connection until we got back in the states Saturday evening. It was too late to make the trip to his funeral but had I been home and known in time, I would have. I truly enjoyed seeing your beautiful children and I am assuming a few of them are one of your sisters children too? Was that Harry's flower gardens??? OMG, it is beautiful! Please know I am keeping you all in my heart, thoughts & prayers. He is with his brothers and his Mom & Dad. They are all united & probably fishing or atleast "talking" about fishing!!! :)!

Debbie Hubbard - January 29, 2018 at 04:19 PM



Wonderful pictures Colleen. Hold onto the sweet memories. Love, Aunt Mel

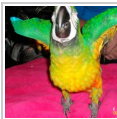
Melanie Nicholl - January 31, 2018 at 08:57 AM



Colleen
Mears
McGettrick

“ I want to start by saying Dad, that I wish I had so much more time, I will never assume again that I have time to tie up loose ends. I would do anything to sit with you in the car, or at the beach, or share a margarita on the water, I would do anything to hang out with you with the kids and bring the play box up from the basement. I am filled with grief that I have never experienced, and I'm not sure how I'm going to be there for my own children in the next couple of weeks, I want to go curl up in a corner and just remember you. I want to thank everyone for coming. I will never be able to explain the comfort I felt from my friends as they walked down the line..it is etched in my heart that you came to support us, because I know most of you did not know my father. For those who did, his work family.. I am so happy he had you. I loved the stories of how he touched your lives, hired you, made the work day tolerable, made you laugh.. if you hadn't come, I wouldn't have heard these memories, and that would've been a true and utter loss for me. Thank you for his stories, thank you for your energy during this extremely awful time. I couldn't believe people were flying in on such late notice from places like DC. Thank you to those who came to spread the ashes in the ocean, I truly felt him at peace there and I was able to truly smile for that moment. I love you Dad, i hope you knew that already.. I wish I could tell you again, but REALLY say it one more time with a hug. I will never forget you, I love you. Your oldest daughter..Ta Teen

Colleen Mears McGettrick - January 29, 2018 at 06:14 AM



I am very sorry to hear your Dad died. I know that I haven't had contact with him since I was a teen, but I would think about him. I wondered what he was up to, and hoped he was happy. He had the best sense of humor! The last time I saw him, he hugged me even though your Mom would not. I so wish that I could be a part of your life. God bless you and your family. Judith McManus Dupuis

Judith Dupuis - September 19, 2018 at 01:17 PM

KB

“ Harry was a great guy. When I arrived in Gloucester in 1977, he was already working for the Northeast Region, and we became close friends as our programs were closely related; his in Federal Aid, and mine in the State-Federal Fisheries Management Program and in the Fisheries Management Operations Branch. For around 5 years we both had offices in the Region's Fisheries Management Division building on the State Fish Pier in Gloucester. After a couple of reorganizations, I became his deputy in the State, Federal and Constituent Programs Division, and we worked together for 15 years, collaborating and "conspiring" to make the grants programs even better. Sometimes had to convince the headquarters folks that our regional approach was the best path, and with diplomacy, we usually succeeded. I smiled every day I went to work, and laughed with Harry often. I firmly believe that everyone should have a job they love; he and I certainly did. I've been retired quite a while now, nearly 13 years, and Retirement is a great institution; in fact, I'm recommending it to all my friends! I feel so sad that Harry wasn't able to spend many, many happy years in retirement too. He deserved it.

My warmest wishes go to all his family. Please know that all the wonderful memories we have of time spent with Harry, especially the smiles and chuckles, will last forever. Rest easy Harry, let us row the rest of the way.

All the best,

Ken Beal

Ken Beal - January 28, 2018 at 09:38 PM

BC

“ So saddened to hear of (Uncle), Harry's passing. I have happy memories of Harry growing up and was glad to reconnect as adults and having one on one time with him and catching up. He loved his family and my thoughts are with them and his partner Ric. Your niece/ cousin, Bette

Bette Cramer - January 28, 2018 at 04:26 PM

KC

“ I am so saddened to hear of Harry's passing. I worked with Harry for many years at NOAA. As is mentioned in just about every memory of Harry, he always had a wide smile on his face and was one of the nicest guys you would ever meet. Just passing him in the hallway and seeing that smile made you feel good. Such a kind, pleasant man, he will be sorely missed. I am so sorry that I could not make it to his memorial, I have been laid up with a raging head cold, but I send my thoughts and condolences to his family and loved ones. You have lost a real treasure.



Kathie Ciarametaro

Kathie Ciarametaro - January 28, 2018 at 11:33 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Harold C. Mears.



January 28, 2018 at 11:12 AM

PC

“ I remember the first time I met Harry when he walked through the door of the NMFS State Fish Pier Office. That was 45+ years ago when we both began our first jobs in fisheries management, Harry in Fisheries Grants in Aid and I in State/Federal Fisheries. I am grateful to have met Harry on that day and since then through our 40 year careers collaborating and coordinating our activities to do our jobs better. Harry was a great colleague, whether it be supporting and executing high quality grants and best science upon which to manage fishery resources, or sitting on science committees, or developing platforms for inter-Division relations. Harry was excellent, “can-do”, and did I mention ...a heck of a biologist.

Harry was as much a dear friend as a professional colleague. We enjoyed chatting about our daughters, trading wonderful stories as loving fathers do. We also would talk a lot about music. Many of us know his talent as a DJ that he generously gifted us with at many NMFS occasions. And, to me he was purely the professor of the “College of Musical Knowledge”. Ask him anything — he knew all about it. I miss those times and never will forget them.

With all the qualities Harry possessed and shared with us, and that he had much more to give, I wish that he was able to enjoy his retirement. It saddens me greatly that Harry has passed on. I send heartfelt condolences especially to his loving family and hope there is some measure of comfort in my reflections. I will not forget him.

Sincerely,
Peter Colosi

Peter Colosii - January 28, 2018 at 10:58 AM

JR

“ My deepest condolences to your family, Harry. I was there when you arrived at NMFS, hired by Pete Couture and Bill Beckman to work in the Federal Aid program, and saw you became one of the most highly respected "Fed" to serve in that program. You will be missed for your wit and knowledge and dedication to the work. I am so sorry that you missed out on the 20+ years of retirement that you so deservedly earned! The federal Government needs more people like you....

Jon Rittgers

JON RITTGERS - January 28, 2018 at 10:51 AM

PF

“ You will be missed greatly every day. I will remember all the wondul times we has. You are with Bob and Don now so catch up and enjoy each other. I will miss you always. I love you Harry. Your sister Patty



pat faulkner - January 27, 2018 at 06:24 PM

JD

“ Jane Fox Dobson lit a candle in memory of Harold C. Mears



jane fox dobson - January 27, 2018 at 05:59 PM

JD

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



jane fox dobson - January 27, 2018 at 04:52 PM

FM

“ So very sorry to hear of Harry's passing. We have many happy memories of him. I am sure Don and Bob were at the pearly gates to welcome him and they are reliving good times growing up together.

Fran Mears - January 27, 2018 at 04:03 PM

JM

“ I was shocked and greatly saddened to hear of Harry's passing. I supervised the Northeast Office of General Counsel for 34 years.. In that role I worked with Harry frequently. I quickly came to regard Harry as a true friend. He was a fun loving man with whom I shared many a laugh. Harry and his staff helped me to do my job better for which I have always been grateful.. I remember the Xmass party that Dan mentioned.where Harry was the DJ. It was a great time and Harry truly was in his element.. Harry will be greatly missed. Even as I write this I can still hear Harry's laughter. His memory will never fade from me. My heart goes out to Harry's family and all the rest of his many friends.

Joel MacDonald

Joel MacDonald - January 27, 2018 at 12:48 PM

BR

“ I knew Harry for most of my 40 years with nmfs, he was a real friend and mentor, and I’m still having a hard time accepting the news that I won’t be sharing more good times with him. I too remember the good old days when he DJ’ed for the NMFS xmas parties upstairs at the Gloucester House and elsewhere around town. It was another side of Harry that always impressed me. Initially, he taught me how to work within the federal grant process as I oversaw various grants at a time when nmfs still supported product development and export promotion. As fisheries management grew and marketing waned, I was fortunate to have begun working directly for Harry for almost a decade under the State-Federal Commission process. We were all disappointed when a re-organization separated our management team, but Harry and I both maintained our professional and personal friendship after the split. I know he missed the Commission process and I always sought out his advise as I tried to step into his shoes, without anywhere near the same level of success he had making state and federal fisheries management work so effectively when he led the group. Along with Pete and Chip, we made a great management team and I am so glad we all worked together so effectively for so many years. I’ll always remember, and really miss, our irregular early morning breakfast meetings at the local diner before he headed in to the office after I retired. If I have any regret, it’s that I’m so disappointed he did not get the opportunity to really enjoy his retirement! Bottom line, he was a great guy and I’m really going to miss him and our get togethers!

Bob Ross - January 27, 2018 at 12:46 PM

DD

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Harry's passing. I had the pleasure of working with Harry the last 35 yrs. My fondest memory was the time Harry served as the DJ at a work X-Mas party 30 yrs ago. At the time I didn't know that side of him, but I came to realize that was true Harry, a fun loving, compassionate, wonderful person.

Dan D'Entremont - January 27, 2018 at 11:31 AM

WN

“ *With Love: Molly, Joanne, Ronni and Natalie purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Harold C. Mears.*



With Love: Molly, Joanne, Ronni and Natalie - January 27, 2018 at 11:30 AM

KD

“ *My deepest condolences to Harry's friends and family. Like many who have added tributes, I had the pleasure of working with Harry at NMFS. He was a terrific coworker and friend, and I always knew I could go to him for answers to questions given his long service in the federal government. He will be greatly missed. Wishing comfort and peace to all who knew and loved him.*

Kim Damon-Randall

Kim Damon-Randall - January 27, 2018 at 08:04 AM

DM

“ *Best boss I ever had - hands down! True gentleman. Top shelf. Class act. If you were treading water, Harry would throw you a life line. You could bet on it. I know this to be fact from personal experiences. I will miss him more than ever. Love you Harry!!*

Don Mason - January 26, 2018 at 07:22 PM

RR

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Harry. Ricky I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to met and spend some wonderful time with you and Harry. I will forever cherish my friendship that I shared with him. He always welcome me into your home and I can recall the last time we had lunch together as if it was yesterday. We laughed ,listen to music and shared some stories. I will truly miss him but know that my life was blessed for having known him. Ricky you and Harry’s family have my deepest condolences. You will be missed Harry...Rest In Peace
Renee Robinson

Renee Robinson - January 26, 2018 at 07:19 PM

NI

“ I was one of the many fortunate folks who got to work with Harry at NOAA. Harry and I took on similar roles within NOAA roughly at the same time, just at different locations. We bonded over learning the ropes together....whether that was sharing challenges, ideas, or successes. My favorite memories of Harry was his infectious laugh and big smile. Harry was always thoughtful, always positive, and always helpful. My thoughts are with his loved ones.

Nicolle - January 26, 2018 at 07:01 PM

HK

“ He was such a sweet man! I’m so sorry he is gone this soon, too soon. He passed so many beautiful qualities down to you, Colleen. He was compassionate, sweet, generous and such a caring person. I have so many fond memories of him as a kid. He was always carrying around his DJ stuff, which seemed to be a comforting outlet for him. Not sure if he ever “yelled” at me (which I’m sure was warranted as a crazy little girl) but he was always so gentle. My condolences to his whole family, I know he will be missed.

Heidi Kaplan - January 26, 2018 at 06:09 PM

JL

“ I am deeply saddened to learn of Harry's death. Harry was always a kind, caring, and intelligent man, with a great sense of humor. Often, I would hear his infectious laugh coming down the hall from his office. Harry will be greatly missed by everyone who was lucky enough to have crossed his path in life. God bless you Harry.

J Lacerda - January 26, 2018 at 05:37 PM

FN

“ From all of your many friends at NOAA. purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Harold C. Mears.

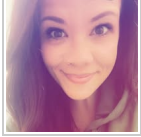


From all of your many friends at NOAA. - January 26, 2018 at 05:17 PM

EM

“ I really do not know where to begin. Harry and I grew up together. We lived about three miles apart. I have memories going back to age 5 or 6 to present. We always had fun together. I have never known anyone that knows all pop hits from the early 60's on and the artists. He was a walking encyclopedia. One of smartest people I ever knew. Although he was my uncle, we always called ourselves cousins as we were just over a month difference in age, he being the older and much wiser cousin. I will miss him more than I can ever put in words.

Ed Mears - January 26, 2018 at 05:17 PM



“ *Ricky, You always had the greatest things to say about Harry and I was lucky enough to have the pleasure of sitting with you guys at the gala's. Thank you for sharing the wonderful memories you two experienced together. I am always thinking of you Ricky. Take care*



Amy Smith - January 26, 2018 at 04:58 PM

PJ

“ *I had the great pleasure of working with Harry. I was told by many he was the best boss to work for at NOAA Fisheries. I will always remember his smile and laugh, even when things were difficult. My thoughts and prayers go with you Harry . . .*

Paul Jones - January 26, 2018 at 04:56 PM

CV

“ *I had the great pleasure of working with Harry for the last three years, he was an exceptionally nice, and caring man that always had a large smile on his face when I came to visit him in Gloucester. He will be missed beyond words. God speed my friend and your partner and family are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Cynthia VanKam

Cynthia VanKam - January 26, 2018 at 04:40 PM

CM

“ Harry was a great guy! Our paths crossed many time over the last 30 years as we worked together on a number of fishery issues and problems - I enjoyed each intersection and always appreciated his company and guidance. I'm glad we made time to have lunch together last May and catch up. I'll miss him! My deepest condolences to Ric and his family. Chris Moore

Chris Moore - January 26, 2018 at 04:40 PM



“ Was so very, very sorry to hear of Harry's passing. I lived down the street from him on Carroll Lane for ten years and during that time we became friends. I spoke with Harry several weeks ago and am so happy that I had that opportunity. He will be in my prayers and my heart and will truly be missed.

Debbie Gleason

Deborah Gleason - January 26, 2018 at 04:37 PM

CC

“ Harry was a great man. Full of compassion and positive energy. He was a mentor and a friend during the short period I was lucky enough to work with him. I miss him already.

Chad Cary - January 26, 2018 at 03:42 PM

JM

“ Harry and I had the same job for NOAA, but at different locations. Harry in Gloucester, and me in Woods Hole. We would often travel to meetings together to meet our peers from all over the country. Over the years, Harry and I got to know each other very well. We shared work problems and solutions and social drinks with our colleagues. I know Harry to be a loving family man who loved his work, as well as those with whom he worked, Harry shared with me several months ago, that he was having medical problems, and was having tests done. He told me when he was diagnosed that he would be undergoing cancer treatments. I think that Harry confided in me as I have brain cancer. I will miss Harry. My friend, my coworker, and travel buddy. Gog Bless you, Harry,

--Jack Moakley

Jack Moakley - January 26, 2018 at 03:40 PM

JB

“ My deepest sympathy to Ricardo, and All of Harold's Family. He was a wonderful man. So very sad.

Jane Barry - January 26, 2018 at 03:39 PM

DM

“ Ricardo, We are so sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you.
Denise Michaud

Denise M. Michaud - January 26, 2018 at 03:39 PM

SA

“ *Sandra Arvilla lit a candle in memory of Harold C. Mears*



Sandra Arvilla - January 26, 2018 at 03:15 PM

SA

“ *My deepest condolences to his family! I worked with Harry for 27 years at NOAA/NMFS, very nice man! Sending Heartfelt sympathy!*
💜💚💙 Hugs 🌴

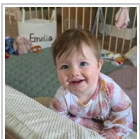
Sandra Arvilla - January 26, 2018 at 03:13 PM



“ *Vincie Burgess lit a candle in memory of Harold C. Mears*



Vincie Burgess - January 26, 2018 at 02:52 PM



“ *I'm so saddened to hear of Harry's death. I worked with him for almost 20 years here at NMFS and I have to say he was the nicest guy in this whole building. R.I.P. Harry*

Vincie Burgess - January 26, 2018 at 02:51 PM