



Captain H. Dale Parsons

OCT 27, 1932 - JUL 25, 2024



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Captain H. Dale Parsons

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Captain. Harry Dale Parsons, a beacon of kindness and generosity, passed away peacefully on July 25, 2024, in Lewes, Delaware. Born on October 27, 1932, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he was the son of the late Harry and Florence (Hearn) Parsons.

Dale was a proud graduate of Lewes High School, Class of 1950, where he avidly enjoyed playing football and basketball. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard during the Korean Conflict. Capt. Dale's love for his country was matched by the love he shared with his wife, Olda Keene Parsons, with whom he enjoyed 55 wonderful years of marriage.

In 1937, his father, known affectionately as "Pappy," started the family charter fishing business with young Dale by his side, who later earned his Captains' license. Capt. Dale expanded the business by introducing head boat fishing to the area and later renamed the business Fisherman's Wharf. Under his leadership, the business grew into a well-respected establishment with a fleet of boats for fishing and cruising serving fishermen, tourists, locals, families, and schools. In the early 80's Dale and Olda opened the Lighthouse Restaurant to complement the fishing business. Over the decades these businesses served to employ many in the region.

Capt. Dale Parsons played a pivotal role in establishing Lewes, Delaware as a prominent fishing and cruising destination. His innovative approach to maritime activities and eco-tourism not only brought economic opportunities but also fostered a greater awareness of environmental conservation in the region. In 2009, he was inducted into the Delaware Maritime Hall of Fame.

His career was marked by significant contributions to his community, including his tenure as a Lewes Councilman, where his vision greatly impacted the town's growth and prosperity. He was also active in organizations such as Delaware Captain's Association and the American Legion Lewes Post 17. He served on the Delaware Council on Shell Fisheries, and was a Past Master of Jefferson Lodge #15, where he left a lasting legacy through his leadership and service. He was a long-time member of Bethel United Methodist Church in Lewes Delaware.



Obituary

Captain H. Dale Parsons

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Capt. Dale is predeceased by his beloved wife, Olda Keene Parsons and his sister, Thelma P Ripper. He is survived by his brother-in-law, Edward Ripper (Sharon) of Salisbury, Maryland. His memory will continue through his son, H.D. Parsons (Ann) of Lewes, DE, and his daughter, Keena Parsons Ross (Paul) of Lewes, DE. Capt. Dale also leaves behind his cherished grandchildren: Parker (Kacie), Reven, Brinleigh (DJ) Mackie (Holly), Parron, Keara, step-granddaughter Sarah, and 2 great grandchildren, Reven and Riley, as well as several nieces and nephews and his AFS German exchange daughter, Angie Schuck (Rolf).

Capt. Dale's presence will be profoundly missed, yet his spirit will live on through the many lives he touched.

Family and friends are invited to a viewing on Sunday August 4, 2024, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium, Atkins-Lodge Chapel, 16961 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE 19958. A second viewing will take place on Monday August 5, 2024, from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM at Bethel United Methodist Church, 129 W. 4th Street, Lewes, DE 19958. A Masonic service will be held at 11:00 AM, immediately followed by a Funeral Service at the same location.

All those unable to attend the services are invited to join the service via livestreaming by visiting the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/1NEqgxd7eT8>

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Beebe Medical Foundation, 902 Savannah Road, Lewes, DE 19958.

Please visit Capt. Dale's Memorial Webpage at www.parsellfuneralhomes.com

Please sign the tribute wall located on this page.

FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE HAVE ALL FLOWERS DELIVERED ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 2024 BY 3PM TO OUR LEWES LOCATION.



Events

Captain H. Dale Parsons

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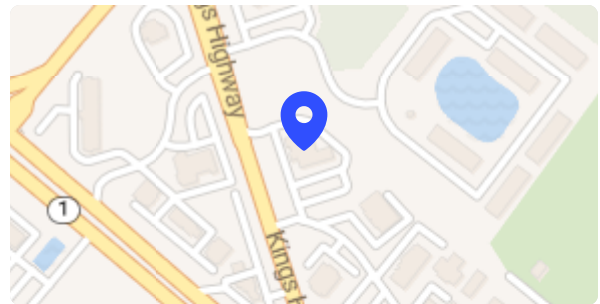
First Viewing

Sunday, August 4, 2024

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET

Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-Atkins-Lodge Chapel

16961 Kings Highway, Lewes DE 19958



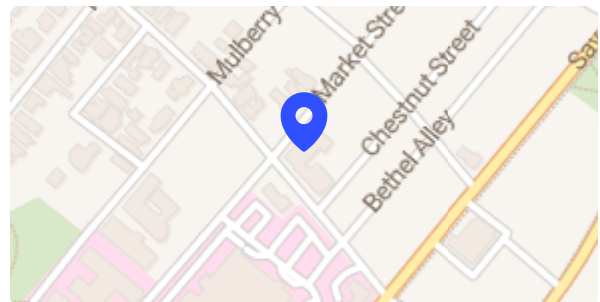
Second Viewing

Monday, August 5, 2024

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM ET

Bethel United Methodist Church

129 West 4th Street, Lewes DE



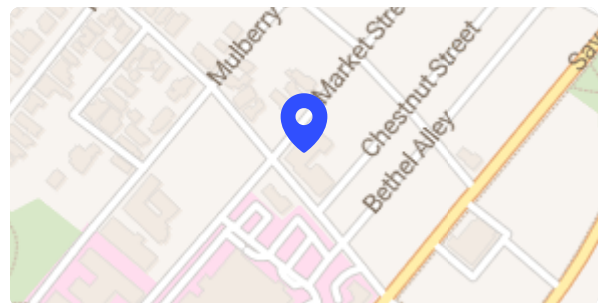
Masonic Services

Monday, August 5, 2024

11:00 AM ET

Bethel United Methodist Church

129 West 4th Street, Lewes DE



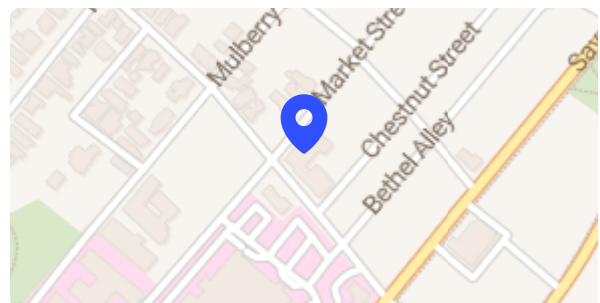
Funeral Service

Monday, August 5, 2024

11:10 AM ET

Bethel United Methodist Church

129 West 4th Street, Lewes DE





Tribute Wall

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CD

Christopher Dudley posted:

Greatest man I have ever met; he was like a father to me when I worked for him in my short stay in Delaware- the whole Parsons family are beautiful People !! I can't say enough good about the person family. Living in Delaware and working for the parsons were some of the best times of my life my name is Chris Dudley and I am going to miss Dale immensely It hurts my heart to hear that Dale passed away

January 3 at 2:58 AM

KR

Keena Ross posted:

We want to thank the many friends and family members of our father, Dale, for their words and actions of kindness and condolences, visitations, flowers, food and donation gifts of tribute. Your thoughtfulness and consideration really helps our family through our time of grieving. While we'll miss him dearly, we're thankful that we had him for such a long lifetime. Thank you again. God bless each and every one of you.The Parsons Families

August 23 at 7:22 AM

BW

Bradford White posted:

So sorry for your loss. Capt Dale was one of the first fleet owning Captains I have worked with as of 20 years ago--good and capable Captain. may he rest in peace--Sail on Dale, sail on.Sadly,Capt Brad White

August 23 at 6:28 AM

KL

Kathy Langdon posted:

We had the opportunity to rent their home in Marathon Florida and, after buying one of our own, had the pleasure of meeting him in person..while walking ... we also frequented the lighthouse in lewes as a stop with our family on the boat. So many fond memories. Thank you capt Dale

August 13 at 11:22 AM



Tribute Wall

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DV

David Charles Luther Vessels posted:

TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF CAPTAIN H. DALE PARSONS, CAPTAIN DALE WILL BE MISSED BY ALL THAT KNEW HIM, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO HAVE KNOWN , ALL THREE GENERATIONS , PAPPY, CAPTAIN DALE AND HIS SON CAPTAIN H. D. , THEIR PRESENCE ON THE LEWES-REHOBOTH CANAL IN LEWES I HOPE WILL GO FOWARD FOR GENERATIONS TO COME, GOD SPEED' CAPTAIN DALE, MY CONDOLENCES TO ALL OF HIS FAMILY, DAVID C L VESSELS

August 9 at 1:03 PM

GC

George Chambers posted:

Dale and Olda were friends of Jane and George Chambers, long time Lewes Beach residents.I had many early morning conversations with Capt. Parsons as he sold fishing tickets to the early morning fisherman from the wharf ticket window.Capt. Parson's legacy of environmental conservation will live on with his son and daughter, H.D. and Keena! ! – George Chambers, Lewes Beach

August 9 at 1:48 AM

JF

Jessica Lane (Case) & Family posted:

I have the most beautiful memories ever written into my soul from growing up and visiting Aunt Olda & Uncle Dale in Lewes. I can still hear your infectious laugh and that thick southern drawl I always loved. Thank you for opening up your wharf, your home as well as your heart every summer and giving me the most cherished memories of my childhood! May you and Aunt Olda rest in eternal happiness. My deepest condolences to Keena, HD and everyone else's life you touched by knowing. Rest easy captain, you will be missed by so many!

August 5 at 1:16 PM

SK

Sheryl Mitchell King posted:

HD and Keena and families sending our condolences from The Mitchell's and King family.Capt.Dale will forever be in our hearts and memories.

August 5 at 8:38 AM

CF

Connie Fisher posted:

uncle dale I have the best memories of visiting you and your family during the summer with my dad. I miss you. Rest in peace, Give my mom and dad a hug from me and the rest of the relatives in heaven

August 5 at 6:40 AM



Tribute Wall

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DB

Dale Brown posted:

Capt Dale may the sea be following your back my friend. I really loved and cherished all our talks and coffee together . Sir you will be missed big time !! Rest easy . May peace be with you and your family. Dale and Barbara and Alexis Brown

August 5 at 3:04 AM

MD

Maureen Duffy posted:

Your father was a wonderful man, captain and pillar of the Lewes community, making it what it is today. He will be missed by all who knew him and remembered fondly. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. ❤️

August 4 at 8:15 PM

MM

Mike Maul posted:

My condolences to Keena and HD and their families.Dale and Pappy both were really good mentors and teachers to me.I worked for them for five summers. The whole crew is Pappy,Mom Parsons, Dale,Olda,Thelma,ED(they would come for visit it seemed to me that Dale always put him to work) John Holston, Harry Holland,Elmer Boyer. during the summer we fished and during winter weekends if they had work we worked in the shop rebuilding engines or whatever needed to be done .One winter we worked on putting the addition on Dales house. Pappy always came to the dock earlier than Dale sometimes he would tell me to get in the truck I thought we had to get bait or sodas nope we to his house Mom Parsons was there cooking breakfast for both of us.(I could never figure out how she knew i was coming but she always had enough cooked) I will never forget any of them.

August 4 at 5:43 PM

MW

Mark Wolf posted:

HD ,Keena and the entire Parsons family. Dad and your family welcomed me into the Fishermen's Wharf fishing community. I appreciate all the kindness and knowledge I received. Dale"Now governor I don't wanta tell you what to do but if it was me " I heard those words over and over again and that saved me time and money on many occasions. RIP 🙏 my friend and mentor.

August 4 at 1:30 PM



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MW

Mark Wiedmann posted:

The Wiedmann Family has, and still do enjoy a long relationship with the Parson Family. From the beginning with our parents Fred and Roseanne, Aunt Dot on the boats and still fishing with H D. Good memories for us. A memorial donation to the Beebe Medical Foundation has been made in Captain Parsons Honor.

August 3 at 11:08 AM

GI

Ginny posted:

Dale and Olda were great friends of my parents Bill and Millie Hudson. I have many memories of going to visit them in Lewes as a child. We would visit Delaware from Savannah in the summer to see family and friends and they were always so welcoming. Dale and my dad were buddies until the end. My dad passed away in January. He and Dale would call and chat every month or so. Keena and HD, we were all fortunate to have our Dads as long as we did, but it still doesn't help the pain from losing them. Your families are in my prayers Ginny Hudson Edgerly

August 1 at 5:18 PM

NP

Nelson Pennypacker posted:

A Legend, and a hero who I will miss dearly. I will keep so many memories to cherish.

July 31 at 2:24 PM

NP

Nelson Pennypacker posted:

A Legend , and a hero who I miss dearly. I will keep so many memories to cherish.

July 31 at 2:15 PM

NH

Nancy Hickman posted:

Sorry to hear this. My mother Neva and Olda were lifelong friends. Capt. Dale had a smile that could light up a room. Condolences to the family. Nancy HickmanBethany Beach

July 31 at 5:40 AM



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EB

Elmer Robert Boyer posted:

Dale and "Pappy" were one of the first people to welcome my family into Lewes. They both helped us to establish our house on Lewes beach, and later helped my dad, Elmer, become a captain of one of the Thelma Dale fleet. Rest in Peace Dale. We will always remember you and appreciate what did for our family."Chubby" Boyer

July 30 at 11:56 AM

WF

Wiedmann Family sent an Ocean Breeze Spray to the Parsons family.



July 30 at 9:40 AM

BS

Bill Skelton posted:

The Parsons family were foundational to the Lewes we know today. The Cape region lost another great "local." I was blessed to be a neighbor of the Parsons in the early 70's. Lewes Beach was great place to grow up. Thanks, in large part, to the likes of Captain Parsons. My heartfelt condolences to HD, Keena, and the entire family.

July 30 at 6:16 AM

ME

Melissa posted:

My grandfather (Bill) and I have been fishing at the wharf for about 15 years now so we frequently saw Dale. We will surely miss his company at the dock. Sending love to your family.Missi

July 29 at 10:31 PM

SS

Sandi Siegfried posted:

Sending my condolences to HD and his family for his dad's passing. I always enjoyed trips on the headboat with HD at the helm. May Mr. Parsons rest peacefully in God's loving realm.Sandi Siegfried

July 29 at 3:33 PM



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Anonymous sent a Beautiful Dreams to the Parsons family.



July 29 at 7:06 AM



Walt Palmer posted:

A shrewd businessman, a fine waterman, and a dear friend. Godspeed Captain. Walt & Gwen Palmer Lewes

July 28 at 1:09 PM



Doug Hearn posted:

He could run down the beach and do a forward flip into the water. He put ketchup on my scrambled eggs. I liked it. Dale and my dad maintained a cradle to grave friendship I found admirable. Please take strength in the love your father shared.

July 28 at 4:32 AM



Charlotte A Bastian posted:

It is very hard to say goodbye to such a great friend and neighbor. Dale and his family have been such a blessing to Lewes in many ways. They have added to the beauty of our town and many recreational activities. He was a strong leader and generous friend. Jim and I have so many wonderful memories of times at their house on New Years Eve and many meaningful conversations. Losing him and Jim is heartbreaking. You are in my thoughts and prayers for strength and peace throughout this difficult time. I know his family will continue to keep his business strong and productive. My heart goes out to you all. Love Charlotte

July 27 at 5:34 AM



Eugene Bogan posted:

Peace be with you, old boy. You helped give this kid a lot of good memories. My heart felt condolences to your family.

July 27 at 5:09 AM



Tribute Wall

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Connie Fisher posted:

I'm His niece. I use to visit him every summer with my dad. I miss those days. Rest In Peace Uncle Dale. Love you forever

July 26 at 4:29 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Captain H. Dale by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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