



## Dr. Harry M. Walsh, M.D.

February 1, 1924 - June 27, 2009

Author, Conservationist and founder of the nationally acclaimed WATERFOWL FESTIVAL, Easton, MD.

Harry M. Walsh, M.D. died at the Talbot Hospice House on Saturday, June 27, 2009 after a long hard fought battle with cancer. He was 85 years old. Dr. Walsh is a native of The Eastern Shore of Maryland. He grew up as a riverman on the wild and lonely marshes that fringe the Chesapeake Bay. By the age of 13, as the eldest child, he was providing for his family thanks to the bounty of the Chester River.

Born February 1, 1924 to the late, Michael Walsh and Catherine Grocka, he graduated from Chestertown High School. Dr. Walsh did his undergraduate study at Washington College, in Chestertown, which was interrupted by WWII where he served as an Ensign on the USS Union in the Navy, Pacific theater. He was a member of the original Scouts and Raiders which eventually developed into the Navy Seals and is honored in the National Navy UDT-Seal Museum in Florida. Dr. Walsh was a 1952 graduate of The University of Maryland Medical School where he led his class scholastically serving as class President. He did his residency at Wayne County General Hospital in Michigan and Nassau Hospital in New York. Dr. Walsh is a diplomat of the American Board of Surgery and a fellow of the American and International Colleges of Surgeons. For many years he practiced at Easton Memorial

Hospital becoming a much loved surgeon often accepting a bushel of crabs or oysters in lieu of payment. His vast career included being Chief of Surgery at King Abdulaziz Airbase in Saudi Arabia, Chief of Surgery at the VA Medical Center in Salisbury, NC, Charleston Naval Hospital, Paris Island and Patrick Air Force Base in FL.

He was a gifted athlete, a boat captain of the US Fish and Wildlife research vessel Alosa, a rugged outdoorsman, and became a staunch conservationist which compelled him to write his highly acclaimed book "The Outlaw Gunner". He witnessed the degradation of the Chesapeake Bay which led him to spearhead the founding of Easton's beloved Waterfowl Festival which is approaching its 39th anniversary. The Waterfowl Festival has become a symbol of everything "Eastern Shore". The festival has raised millions of dollars for Wildfowl preservation. While writing The Outlaw Gunner he amassed a unique collection of hunting artifacts. Most of these artifacts were donated to museums including the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels, The Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge Museum, The Mariners' Museum in Virginia and others. He was a recipient of two Maryland Governor Citations. One was for his caring and service to the Eastern Shore and the other for his conservation efforts and leadership of the Waterfowl Festival.

Dr. Walsh is survived by his beloved wife of fifty-six years, Mary Beatrice Wittmer. Together, they traveled extensively abroad. He was an incredible father and is survived by his six children, Harry M. Walsh, Esq. and his wife, Chryss of Florida, Mary B. Gaines and her husband, Myrt of Butler, Md, Michael V. Walsh and his wife, Pam of Easton, Georgeanne C. Pinkard and her husband, Peter of Easton, Joseph P. Walsh and his wife, Lynn of Annapolis and Patrick J. Walsh M.D. and his wife, Inglis of New Bern, North Carolina. He is also survived by his grand children, Rusty Gaines, Lila Gaines, Kelsey Ward, Andrew Ward, Laura, Lindy Walsh, Meris Walsh, Isabelle Walsh, Jena Pinkard, Caity Pinkard, Sarah Walsh, and Carolista Walsh.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Robert and Sister Marie. He is survived by his sister, Lucille and brothers, Michael and Matthew.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated at the St. Michaels Mission Church, St. Michaels, MD on Thursday, July 2, 2009 at 11 am with the burial at 4pm at Old St. Paul's cemetery in Chestertown, MD.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Talbot Hospice Foundation, 586 Cynwood Dr. Easton, MD 21601 ([www.talbothospice.org](http://www.talbothospice.org)) and Sts. Peter and Paul Church 7906 Ocean Gtwy., Easton, MD 21601.

# Previous Events

## Service

JUL 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Michaels Mission Church  
109 Lincoln Avenue  
St. Michaels, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Harry M. Walsh, M.D.*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Dr. Harry M. Walsh, M.D.*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Dr. Harry M. Walsh, M.D.*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *I am sorry that it has taken me all these years to realize, too late, that the author of "The Outlaw Gunner" has passed. I would like to offer his family and friends my condolences. In Dr. Walsh's book he mentions my grandfather, Luther Parker, in glowing terms and with much factual information. I wish that I had been able to thank him in person and to confirm for him some of the facts about my grandfather's hunting exploits. It must have been an amazing time. Bob Parker*

**Robert Parker** - October 04, 2020 at 08:26 PM



“ Greetings to the entire Walsh Family!

*It has been many years since I have seen any of you but I certainly remember all of you. I know Georgeanne and Joe best as we all went to school together along with my sister, Kim. I have fond memories of the Jr. Class Play with Georgeanne and a crush that lasted a good long while! I also have a distinct vision of Joe singing "Dear Abby" in the talent show laughing all the while knowing that very few folks in the audience knew who John Prine was, let alone understood his sense of humor!*

*I was home over Independence Day and was saddened to pick up the Star Democrat and learn of Dr. Walsh's passing. But reading the article I could not help but think what a long, interesting and wonderful life he lived - the Navy, the Eastern Shore, hunting, the career in medicine, the travel abroad, and the raising of that huge bunch of blonde headed kids - all pretty cool - and as Garrison Keillor would say, "all above average"!*

*My mom, BJ (Curry) Meals worked for many years with your dad at Easton Memorial Hospital and she always had great stories to tell about Dr. Walsh. I also believe Dr. Walsh once operated on my dad's elbow to remove a benign cyst - and had a good laugh about it being one of the great hazards of drinking beer and leaning for far too long on the bar.*

*While I was home, as fate would have it my own father (Stanley Curry) passed away suddenly in early July at age 81. His obituary is also on this website - which led me to Dr. Walsh's and allowed me to reach out to your family. So I have a very real empathy and sympathy for what you all have experienced. Some folks live extraordinary lives and others live ordinary lives. When it is a parent none of that matters - it's just no fun at all.*

*I wish you all Peace as you mourn Dr. Walsh's passing and hope you find contentment in your memories of your husband, father and*

*grandfather.*

*What's so funny about Peace, Love and Understanding?*

*My very best regards to each of you,  
Barry Curry  
Birmingham, AL*

*PS. Please tell Madame Arcati that Charles says hello!##imported-  
begin##Barry K. Curry##imported-end##*

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July 24, 2009 at 12:13 PM



“ *To the Walsh Family: My thoughts and prayers are with you. Many people who you might not even though are sharing in your loss. Dr. Walsh was a remarkable human being as well as a gifted and caring Doctor. I remember having to have surgery at five years old, and Dr. Walsh in his way made me feel so comfortable and safe, my fear simply vanished. He will be missed my many. God Bless You - Constance Todd##imported-begin##Connie Todd##imported-end##*

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July 08, 2009 at 03:56 PM



“ *What a loss this is. He suridlly was a blessed man and now God needs him in Heaven! I always knew Dr. Walsh was a "very special" person. He was my doctor as a young girl and he always loved seeing my mom bring in our klan to see him. I am one of six. The Whaley kids from Wye Mills. He always had a joke and a smile and a blessed personality that always made you feel comfortable no matter what! I have only fond and great memories of him. He always went out of his way to acknowledge you no matter what his stature in the community was, he always knew you. I loved him lilke so many of us do. May God keep you all in his care.##imported-begin##Val Whaley Ivins##imported-end##*

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July 08, 2009 at 12:39 PM



“ *To Dr. Walsh's Family; I was honored to know this man. In 1979 Dr. Walsh performed a double hernia operation on me, i was a mear kid. He was so kind, and had a joking wit about him. Me, Coming from Rock Hall and also having a love for the bay and the chester river, as i was in recovery after my operating room experience, Dr. Walsh leaned over my bed, and autographed a personal copy of the OutLaw Gunner, I have cherished it and read it a hundred times. Dr. Walsh was one of a kind. caring and compassionate. I Think he knew that a bushel of chester river crabs was a fair trade for a days work in the operating room in those days, :-)*  
*Arthur Godfrey, Oxford Md. (formerly of Rock Hall.) argo50@atlantic bb.net*  
*I know you all have to be proud to have been part of this fine mans life. God bless you all.##imported-begin##Arthur Godfrey##imported-end##*

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July 01, 2009 at 10:34 PM



“ He was a good friend, a kind and giving person, and will be greatly missed. ##imported-begin## Dan Peterson ##imported-end##

July 01, 2009 at 10:23 PM



“ I am the son of Dan and Frances Peterson. My dad grew up with Harry, He did surgery on my mom and saved her life, I was a young boy. ##imported-begin## Chris Peterson ##imported-end##

July 01, 2009 at 10:17 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you.  
So sorry we can't be with you all.  
Love,  
Joanne, David, David Jr., and Catherine ##imported-begin## Joanne White ##imported-end##

July 01, 2009 at 12:56 AM



“ Mrs. Walsh & Family, Dr. Walsh and my father (Bob Fleetwood) had a great love for each other -- teacher/student; Dr/patient and friends. They lost touch for many years but were able to reconnect before my father's death. I am very sorry to read of Dr. Walsh's death. Please know that many people you don't even know are thinking of you and wishing you well. Sincerely, Elizabeth Fleetwood ##imported-begin## Elizabeth Fleetwood ##imported-end##

June 30, 2009 at 04:02 PM



“ *Mary B. and family,  
You are in my thoughts and prayers. Take care of yourselves and  
thanks for the memories.##imported-begin##Bessie  
Andrew##imported-end##*

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June 30, 2009 at 11:52 AM