



## Robert P. Mason

September 19, 1931 - March 27, 2023

Robert Paige Mason passed away peacefully on March 27, 2023, at the age of 91.

He was the beloved husband of 66 years to Marilyn Turner Mason; loving father of Todd Spaulding Mason of Ellicott City, MD, and Wayne Clark Mason of Alexandria, VA; their wives, Michelle and Maureen; grandfather of four, Leah and her husband Isaiah Bruemmer of Ridgecrest, CA, Max of Ellicott City, MD, Nicholas and Sam of Alexandria, VA; loving brother to Francelia Clark of Hancock, NH; and uncle to her daughter, Alison, of Ann Arbor, MI.

Bob was a Physicist earning degrees from Amherst College and MIT. He worked for the government and multiple small companies, culminating in the development of instruments that measure color.

Bob loved nature, the Chesapeake Bay, and sailing. He lived in Bozman, MD, on Broad Creek during his retirement. Bob enjoyed volunteering at Pickering Creek Audubon Center where he helped set up the bluebird monitoring system and was often on-call to fix broken farm equipment. He accumulated over 8000 volunteer hours as a docent at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum and led the Model Guild there for many years. When Riverkeepers was established, Bob joined others, taking regular readings at designated locations in the Choptank River to monitor bay health.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to a charity above. A service honoring Bob's life is TBA.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robert P. Mason*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Some of my earliest memories are of riding with Dad in his Isetta mower. Just starting out, Mom and Dad bought a ~2 acre property overlooking Setauket harbor on Long Island NY. Presented with the problem of mowing all of this, Dad acquired an old BMW Isetta. He cut the bubble top off and added a Chevy truck transmission in series with the existing one to provide enough gear reduction for mowing speeds. He then attached a 6ft mowing deck underneath, added a pulley to the engine, and rigged more pulleys and springs to route and tension a belt to the mower. The result was an amazing contraption that would mow the property in under an hour and did so for ~10 years. It also served as a great garden tractor. Dad had a gift in the understanding of and ability to create mechanical and electronic things that was astounding and very inspirational to me. I learned from him that just about anything is possible with enough thought and energy applied.*

**Todd Mason** - May 30, 2023 at 06:58 PM



“ *Bob was a great friend to my Uncle Chip, and as a fellow scientist I'm sure they spent many hours discussing all the interesting work they had done over their careers while volunteering at CBMM and the St. Michaels Museum. He was a wonderful man. My condolences to his family.*

**Kim Wilson** - April 10, 2023 at 03:33 PM

TM

“ The best gift Dad ever gave me was to convince me to go to college, and with that, give me permission to fail. He said “Just go give it a try and see how it goes. If it doesn’t work out, we’ll be here for you.” At the time I was on a vocational education path in high school, working in repair shops, as I didn’t think I had the aptitude for college math. That permission made it OK to just go and do my best without fear. This led me to a great career in Engineering. Thanks Dad! –Todd

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**Todd Mason** - April 07, 2023 at 04:07 PM

TM

“ Our family activity for the first 18 years of my life involved boating of one form or another on most seasonal weekends. Around 1969 Dad acquired Spindrift, a Bristol 29, which provided a lasting foundation for this. Dad loved sailing, almost to a fault. He was perfectly content to drift for hours in the dearth of wind. I would hound him about starting the engine to at least create some wind of our own. He rarely relented. I also liked the engine (and engines in general), having inherited some of his electro-mechanical genetics. We thus had a Sail Vs. Power discord that was especially strong under these conditions. This got me interested in rowing the dinghy we usually had in tow. Sometimes I would get what seemed to be miles ahead toward our destination on these days. By the time I got back, he was usually ready to give in. –Todd

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**Todd Mason** - April 07, 2023 at 04:04 PM

TM

“ 23 files added to the album Photo memories



Todd Mason - April 07, 2023 at 11:11 AM

TM

“ Dad loved birds, especially bluebirds. He learned a lot about bluebirds along with birdhouse parameters that attracted them, and built a large number of houses over many years. Many were placed around his Bozman property, at Pickering Creek, and generally around the St. Michaels area. This work helped to increase the bluebird population in these areas. He gave us one, which has attracted bluebirds yearly to our back yard. Dad periodically gave talks on bluebirds as he was considered a local expert. Two weeks before he passed, Dad went to Lowes and bought wood to build bluebird houses, which he had not done in some time. This was a final rally in support of a passion for nature that he loved. -Todd

Todd Mason - April 07, 2023 at 11:06 AM