



## Vernon DeForest Stotts

November 4, 1927 - September 19, 2015

Vernon DeForest Stotts died on Saturday, September 19, 2015, at The Pines in Easton. He was 87.

Born November 4, 1927, in Alberta, MN, he was the son of the late Vincent DeForest and Anne Bertina Oyen Stotts.

Vernon came from a large farm family of ten children. As a child, he worked on the farm and attended a one room schoolhouse through 8th grade. He graduated from Appleton High School in 1945, and served in the Air Force (Army Air Corps) from February 1946 to January 1949 as a draftsman stationed in Fairbanks, AK. He attended college at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, graduating in 1953. Initially, he planned to major in civil engineering, but upon learning one could receive a degree in "wildlife" he changed his major. After graduating from UMN, Vern had the opportunity to conduct research on black duck breeding biology in Maryland. This work supported his master of science degree from the University of Illinois, Champaign.

In 1955, Vernon became waterfowl program manager for the MD Game and Inland Fish Commission, now known as the MD Department of Natural Resources, and served this role until he retired in 1981.

In a letter to his mother, Vernon indicated some apprehension in moving to Maryland, but through mutual friends, Vern soon met Shirley Jean Bowman. After an exciting romance that included banding ducks, Bay island hopping, and other outdoor experiences, they were engaged to be married under the old windmill on the farm in Appleton, MN. Vernon and Shirley were married in 1959, and had two children and three grandchildren. He was the only one of the 10 Stotts siblings who moved from Minnesota.

In 1982, The Wildlife Society awarded him a Special Recognition Service Award "for pioneering work in waterfowl management in the Chesapeake Bay area." He continued to work in the wildlife field after retiring, working as a private consultant conducting many

projects for both the Canadian and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State of Maryland.

In his free time, Vernon enjoyed hunting, fishing, hiking, playing cards, listening to and telling jokes, and spending time with friends and family. He was known for his dry sense of humor, and his love of Ole and Lena jokes.

Vernon is survived by his children, a son, Daniel B. Stotts (Laura Mitchell) of Sudlersville, MD; a daughter, Donna L. Stotts (James Slacum) of Hurlock, MD; three grandchildren, Andrew Lloyd, Ian Stotts, and Travis Stotts; five sisters, Carolyn Lydeen, Shirley Sallen (Donnie), Deanna Hoffman, Elizabeth Carlin (Dan), Katy Trevis; and one brother, Roger Stotts.

He also leaves behind brother-in-law, Curt Larson, and sister-in-law, Betty Lou Bowman, as well as numerous nieces and nephews in Minnesota and Maryland. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his wife, Shirley Bowman Stotts; two sisters, Ione Stotts Rooney and June Stotts Larson; and one brother, Donald Stotts.

A gathering will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2015, from 6-8 p.m. at Fellows, Helfenbein and Newnam Funeral Home, 200 S. Harrison St. in Easton, MD. A memorial service will be held on Friday, November 20, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Nature Conservancy of Maryland/DC, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 100, Bethesda, MD 20814.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

NOV **19**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Easton Location  
200 South Harrison Street  
Easton, MD 21601  
(410) 822-3131  
info@fhfuneralhome.com

### Memorial Service

NOV **20**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Easton Location  
200 South Harrison Street  
Easton, MD 21601  
(410) 822-3131  
info@fhfuneralhome.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Vernon DeForest Stotts*



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**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - November 17, 2015 at 02:51 PM



*Very cool tribute - a blessed life!*

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**Greg Blouch** - November 17, 2015 at 07:13 PM

JJ

*Touching essence of the full life of a good man*

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**JimmyHutch** - November 18, 2015 at 06:27 AM



“ *Vernon DeForest Stotts*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Vernon DeForest Stotts*

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January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

AW

“ It is impossible for mere words to express how deeply the life of Vern Stotts and his lovely wife Shirley have affected both Bill and me. We miss them dearly. We miss the fellowship over meals shared and the competitive games of amplified gin rummy. We miss the phone calls, singing "Happy Birthday" on our special days ( How did Vern remember, how did he know the dates?). We miss the jokes about Lena and Ole! We miss the hugs, the sparkling blue eyes, the reminiscences about shared work in far away Labrador or a campsite with caribou as neighbors and often as supper. Vern asked Bill to take his picture drinking water coming off a waterfall, pure and safe....."They won't believe me back home!"  
We miss everything about the biologist and true friend. Thank you, Lord, for the blessing of knowing Vern and Shirley, learning from their devotion to each other; we see their best work in the lives of their beloved Danny and Donna. God bless you both and your families.  
Ann and Bill

Ann and Bill Whitman - November 19, 2015 at 06:04 AM



“ 177 files added to the album Life Tributes



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - November 17, 2015 at 02:24 PM

CM

How wonderful - your parents were so great -

Cindy Moore - November 18, 2015 at 12:30 PM

PD

“ I would like to express my condolences yo the family of Mr. Vern Stotts on the news of his recent passing. I first met Vern in the 1960's when I was a USFWS refuge manager trainee at Blackwater Refuge and Vern was waterfowl program manager with the MD Game & Inland fish Commission. I always found him to be a consummate professional and enjoyed our many opportunities to work together over the years. He always was able to combine his work with a fine sense of humor; and he will be greatly missed.

*Paul D. Daly*

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**Paul D. Daly** - November 15, 2015 at 07:03 PM

MH

“ It is with sadness that we have lost Vern. What a great man and wildlife biologist was he. I can remember the first time I met him helping to conduct SAV surveys on the Susquehanna Flats in 1977. Fresh out of college, I thought I knew everything:boy was I wrong! Vern was the ultimate scientific encyclopedia and such a professional. We should all strive to attain that level of knowledge and professionalism.

*I must say it was my pleasure to have known Vernon. My heart and prayers go out to Donna, Danny and their families.*

*Mark Hooper*

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**Mark Hooper** - September 29, 2015 at 10:57 AM

DS

“ 6 files added to the album New Album Name



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**Donna L Stotts** - September 28, 2015 at 04:32 PM

FT

“ We will remember Vern with great fondness. He was a wonderful caregiver to his wife Shirley. We enjoyed our visits and playing cards together. My husband says, when he had an opportunity to work with him as a biologist at DNR, it was a joyful and learning experience. Our sympathies to his family, Fran & Jack Taylor

Fran & Jack Taylor - September 25, 2015 at 12:43 PM

DL

“ I will always remember u as a wonderful guy who was so nice to me and having the most wonderful family anyone could ask for... rest in peace Mr stotts.... praying for the stotts family.. love you all.... 🥰🥰🥰💜



Duval Mills Head waiter @ londonderry - September 24, 2015 at 02:26 PM

DS

Thank you so much, Duval, for you kindness to our family. Speaking for the entire family, we love you.

Donna Stotts - September 24, 2015 at 06:41 PM

DM

I love you guys more!!!!!!!!!!!! 🥰🥰🥰 Tell everyone I said hello and I will miss you all.....

Duval Mills - September 26, 2015 at 10:46 PM

DS

Oh, don't you worry, Duval - we are coming in for a group hug soon... Andrew, Katie, James, and me!!!

Donna L Stotts - September 28, 2015 at 04:20 PM

BT

“ It was with great sadness that I learned of Vern's passing. I was so blessed to have known and worked with Vern at the Wye Mills facility many years ago. He was so willing to share his vast knowledge with those of us who showed an interest in his passions. He will truly be missed in the Wildlife world. My prayers are with his family.

Brenda Anthony Tryon

Brenda Tryon - September 22, 2015 at 10:34 PM

DS

Thank you, Brenda. I always enjoyed working with you, and I know Dad did, too. Peace ~ Donna

Donna L Stotts - September 28, 2015 at 04:22 PM