



## George R. Hayes

June 29, 1925 - January 4, 2018

Gloucester Point: George R. Hayes, 92, passed away at home on January 4, 2018. He was the only son of the late Rodney and Alice Hayes of Gloucester and was predeceased by his sister, Ann Pierce. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Betty Simms Hayes; two sons, Rod (Betty) and Paul; a daughter Claire (Robert Brant); five grandsons; five great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Gloucester County was George's home from the beginning to the end. Although a lifetime water-lover, harsh winter days spent on his father's fishing boat piqued his interest in higher education. He began his studies in the Corps of Cadets at VPI (now Virginia Tech) in 1942. After one year he volunteered for the Army Air Corps where he served as a navigator. When the war and his service were complete, he returned to VPI and in 1949 earned his degree in engineering.

After graduating, George came home to Gloucester County where he worked in the engineering and construction field in private industry for five years. In 1954 he started work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. After two years, he transferred to the U.S. Air Force at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton where he spent most of his career. For 24 years he held the position of Director of Operations and Maintenance, Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineering and Services, Headquarters Tactical Air Command. His responsibilities included supervision of engineering support, monitoring design and construction of new facilities, and supervision of fire protection and crash rescue operations for TAC facilities at 18 major bases, the DEW Line and numerous smaller installations. His signature whistle and extraordinary management style left Langley in 1988.

No one was surprised when the retirement didn't take, and within the year, George went to work as the Facilities Manager at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science at Gloucester Point. He worked there for over a decade and enjoyed many challenges. During those years he really appreciated his short commute!

George was always committed to public service. He was especially proud of co-founding the Abingdon Volunteer Fire Company and was the first president in the early 1950's. He served eight years on the Gloucester County School Board, several terms on the vestry of Abingdon Episcopal Church, twenty years with the Gloucester County Wetlands Board, many years on the board of Rappahannock Community College, and nearly four decades

on the Board of the Langley Federal Credit Union.

He was always a source of strength and support for his family, friends, co-workers, church and community. He lived his life with optimism, humor, compassion, determination and persistence. His mantra was that you get out of life what you contribute to others and when George asked "What can I do to help you?" he meant it and he followed through.

Visitation will be from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 8, at Hogg Funeral Home, Gloucester Point. Funeral service officiated by the Reverend Sven vanBaars will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 9, at Abingdon Episcopal Church in Gloucester.

In our loved one's memory, contributions may be made to Abingdon Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Inc., P.O. Box 9, Bena, Va., 23018 (<http://www.avfr.com>) or to Abingdon Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 82, White Marsh, Va., 23183 (<http://www.AbingdonChurch.org>). Please visit <http://www.hoggfh.com> to share condolences and memories with the family.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**Abingdon Episcopal  
Church Cemetery**

4645 George Washington  
Memorial Highway  
Gloucester, VA, 23061

**JAN 8 Visitation** 05:00PM - 06:30PM

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Hogg Funeral Home & Crematory  
3098 George Washington Memorial Hwy P.O. Box 990,  
Gloucester Point, VA 23062, Hayes, VA, US, 23072

**JAN 9 Funeral Service** 02:00PM

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Abingdon Episcopal Church  
4645 George Washington Mem Hwy, Gloucester, VA, US,  
23061

# Comments

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“ It is so sad to say goodbye to friends this way. It is also very sad that life changes--our situations change--and we lose touch with people. I pray that you all--Betty and Rod and Paul--will be comforted during this time. God keep you.

**Regina Foor Adams** - January 10, 2018 at 04:41 PM

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“ George was Chairman of the Gloucester County School Board when I worked as a principal and then Director of Instruction for the school system. He was, without a doubt, one of the best men I have ever known. He was supportive of the administrators and teachers, but he expected excellence. He demanded respect without ever raising his voice. He demonstrated an earnest determination to do what was right and best for the students at all times. George was a positive influence in my career. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to know such a good man. I know he will be missed by his family and the community. Mary R. Helliesen, Ed.D.

**Mary R. Helliesen** - January 08, 2018 at 03:44 PM

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“ 124 files added to the album LifeTributes



**Hogg Funeral Home** - January 08, 2018 at 12:11 PM

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“ I first met Mr. Hayes 35 years ago and since then he has been a role model and mentor for me as well as his family. You have to look no further than his family to see what a uncommon gentleman he genuinely was. I will evermore cherish all the memories and grand times I spent with George and his wonderful family. Godspeed love always.

Denis A. Shorter

**Denis A. Shorter** - January 07, 2018 at 08:16 PM

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“ Mr. Hayes was a fine gentleman and very nice person. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family, God bless you all.,  
Mike Hudgins, Hudgins Nursery  
President Abingdon Volunteer Fire and Rescue, inc

Mike Hudgins - January 07, 2018 at 06:59 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of George R. Hayes.



January 07, 2018 at 06:48 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of George R. Hayes.



January 07, 2018 at 06:42 PM

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“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of George R. Hayes.



January 07, 2018 at 01:31 PM

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of George R. Hayes.



January 06, 2018 at 04:55 PM

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“ I wish I had gotten the chance to meet George. I super his daughter is a lot like him with her wit and brilliant mind and care towards others. Our hearts go out to all who knew and loved him.

Love,

The Potts Family, Chattanooga, TN



**Barbie Thal Potts** - January 06, 2018 at 03:43 PM