



Harold W Demarest

November 5, 1925 - January 10, 2020

Harry Demarest, 94, unexpectedly passed away on January 10, 2020. At the time of his death he was a resident of The Oaks in Fort Edward, NY, but he will long be remembered as a resident of Warrensburg and Bolton Landing.

Harry was born on November 5, 1925 in Queens, NY to the late William and Mary Demarest. He is survived by a brother, Joseph (Ann) Masters and predeceased by two sisters, Adelaide and Dorothy and a brother, Edward. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Anita Shuart Demarest and his children, David (Sandra) Demarest, Hannawa Falls, NY, William (Catherine) Demarest, Alpine, NY, Kathleen (Charles) Barrie, Queensbury, NY, Jean (Norman) Sirois, Franklin, MA, and Peter (Julie) Demarest, Houston, TX. Two children predeceased him – Raymond Demarest and Patricia Demarest and a daughter-in-law, Christine Demarest. Also surviving him are his grandchildren – Christopher Demarest and Dana Morrison; Miranda Demarest, Jason Demarest, Nathan Demarest and Noah Demarest; Emily Kladis, Elizabeth Burke and Erin Perreault; Alexander Demarest and Maximilian Demarest, and great grandchildren – Catherine Morrison and Justin Morrison, Jr.; Jaden Demarest and Quinn Demarest, Alexandra Sosebee and Emma Sosebee; Mason Kladis and Anita Kladis.

Harry enlisted in the Navy at 17 and served for the duration of World War II. He spent many months at sea, circumnavigating the globe. Upon his discharge, he married his childhood sweetheart and started his large family. They lived for many years in the borough of Queens in New York City, primarily in College Point, NY, Anita's hometown. In New York, Harry worked for the Consolidated Edison Company, at one time installing electrical infrastructure for the new United Nations complex. He then became a New York City Policeman, serving in various precincts in Queens, most notably as a plain-clothes officer around Aqueduct Racetrack.

In 1962, he embarked on the next phase of his career by purchasing a restaurant and bar in Warrensburg, N.Y. He packed a station wagon with Anita and then six kids and left the city life for good to run Harry's Chordial Inn, which became renowned as a gathering place for locals, summer visitors and workers and Gore Mountain skiers.

After selling the business in 1979, Harry and Anita bought a home on the shores of Lake George in Bolton Landing. He worked for Warren County as the Assistant Director of the

Tourism Department and traveled extensively to extol the area as an ideal Adirondack destination. In 1985, he was elected Bolton Town Justice, a position he held into his 92nd year.

Harry was always the showman who had a vast repertoire of stories and jokes and he loved to sing with many bands who performed at his business. Throughout his life, his warmth and sincerity attracted a vast number of friends and acquaintances. He mentored many people in the hospitality business. He was a character with a capital "C."

Funeral services will be private and at the convenience of the family.

At his request, there will be no calling hours. Family and friends will gather this spring for a Celebration of Life. Please consider a memorial donation to the Bolton Student Scholarship Association or the Warrensburg Student Scholarship Association.

Comments



“ Harry lived a life that truly was "well done" and will live on in the hearts of all of us that were so touched by all he gave. I loved his stories and especially his humor. My condolences to his family. Anita, I can still remember the wonderful dinners you made for Don and I. Rest in peace

Kitty Ledingham - January 26 at 05:56 AM



“ Some of my warmest memories of growing up in Warrensburg include "Mr" Demarest and his bigger than life personality and welcoming presence. I can only smile when I think of him with fondness. Some of the best memories are of our teen singing group practicing at the Inn and getting comments from the sideline from David's "Dad". Condolences to the Demarest family. From time to time, there are those who show up and make a difference in a community and Harry Demarest was one of those people.

Jeanne (Decker) Tonnesen

Jeanne Decker Tonnesen - January 16 at 01:14 PM



“ Our condolences to the family. Have many fond memories of him at the Inn, laughing, and singing with the patrons. It was a fun place to go and he made it so!!

Peggy & Ron Zarczynski - January 16 at 07:23 AM



“ If it wasn't for Harry acting as chief mediator ,we would not have a lot of new bridges in warren county as he used the back room at the cordial inn for present and future contract negotiations with the several bridge contractors in the surrounding area. When things were almost at a stalemate,he provided a little "libation" to keep things running smoothly. RIP Harry and I am sure your candor and negotiation skills will be welcome in the great beyond!

roger gebo - January 15 at 04:43 PM



“ My sympathy to the Demerest family.

Thomas Ulrichs - January 15 at 09:14 PM



“ Please except my condolences. Harry was a "Character"and a true community man.

Robert Flacke, Jr.

Robert Flacke - January 15 at 04:00 PM



“ Our world has lost a true friend and amazing Judge of Character, Harry brought smiles to any room he entered and we left the room better for the visit. May he rest in peace reunited with his driver Dennis, both watching over us.

Richard Hendrick - January 15 at 02:19 PM



“ Harry was the only 94 year old teenager I ever met. It might have been skiing at Gore, golfing at Queensbury or having a libation or 2(?) at a local watering hole, Harry was the perennial kid,who when clad in Judaical attire had just the right amount of common sense. His children grew up, fortunately for the rest of us, Harry never did. You'll be missed young man. Rich Kelly

Richard Kelly - January 15 at 10:22 AM



“ Should read Judicial attire. Harry would understand...

Richard - January 15 at 10:33 AM



“ Harry was the youngest 94 year-old I ever met, and certainly the most interesting! Truly a remarkable life well lived. My condolences to his family. The Grumps will sorely miss him.

B.J. McKnight, fellow Grump

B.J. McKnight - January 15 at 05:12 PM



“ RIP my old friend. Thank you for all the laughs and for wonderful memories. And thank you for marrying Bill and I! We'll all miss you.

Bonnie Donnelly, Bolton

Bonnie - January 15 at 06:43 PM



“ RIP my friend! A friend for over 50 years . I had the pleasure of joining Harry And Anita at the Pines couple of years ago. We would have lunch every day and reminisce of the good old times.

mary jane Marra - January 15 at 07:05 PM



“ RIP Harry. You and Anita were a boss and mentor and counselor during my younger days tending bar and living at the Chordial Inn. We had the pleasure of your and Anita's friendship for 50+ years. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Barron Clancy - January 17 at 11:48 AM



“ To Harry's Family and friends, your loss is our loss too, I always enjoyed Harry's company when ever we got together at the GRUMP Club. He was truly one of a kind guy, Talked lovingly about his family, never complained about any thing going on in his life, great stories and jokes, and always ready to listen to a good story. I will miss you my friend RIP.

Tom Waring

Thomas Waring - January 18 at 10:24 AM



“ Dear Anita and Family, What a wonderful career Harry had with every position involved in service to his community beginning in the military, New York City and continuing upstate. We are so fortunate you moved to the North Country where you both contributed so very much. Harry was the ultimate tourism guy, always promoting our area! And his judicial impact and contributions as Bolton Town Justice made our area a better place to live. I have very fond memories of working with him... My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Betty Little - January 18 at 03:48 PM



“ Dear Anita and family, Many years ago I worked for you and Harry. I have so many good memories of my times there. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and the family. With love, Deana Hitchcock Wood

Deana H Wood - January 22 at 07:38 PM



“ To the family of Town Justice Harry Demarest: I came to know Harry as a fun loving, fair minded man who was capable of listening to many varied complaints and controversies that found their way to his court and each required a fair resolution. He served in his judicial position for more than three decades as an arbiter of claims with “ big stakes” and a judge of character in each controversy fairly and respectfully. Harry's smile, his patience and his fortitude in dispensing small town justice will be missed . May he Rest In Peace

Michael Muller - January 23 at 06:41 PM