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# In Memorium

Charles DeArmon Sr. 1926-2020



## Charles DeArmon Sr., Longtime HSA Member, Leaves a Legacy

The photo above is, we think, an appropriate one. Charles Sr. passed on his love for sailing and Y-Flyers to his son, Charlie DeArmon Jr, who sails his Y in competition today at Hueston Woods. Father to son. Charlie Jr. has done the same thing, giving the gift of racing and sailing to his children, two of whom are among HSA's most active racing sailors. One of them, Kevin, is pictured above with his granddad at an HSA banquet several years ago wearing some vintage HSA Y-Flyer jackets.

Kevin has his own boat now and sails competitively with us as does his sister Megan and their cousins Kayla and Brendan Draper. That is quite a legacy. Four of his grandchildren, all sailors like granddad, have fallen in love with this sport. (That's Charlie Jr. about age 11 with his dad in the photo at right.)

Charles Sr. stopped racing in about the mid 80's, but he was on the Flying Scot with Joe Fulford a few years ago and has been on son Charlie's Y while in his 90's.

## A Son Remembers

"We started renting Sunfish and Sailfish at Cowan Lake and Hueston Woods when I was in grade school in the mid to late 60's.

"Later he bought a Y-Flyer with Doug Hawn. Back then, I think there were seven fleets starting every Sunday and about eighteen Y-Flyers on the starting line.

"Doug ended up buying another Y-Flyer so they could both race every Sunday.

"I crewed for my dad and later both of my sisters learned to sail at HSA Junior Camp.

"He always enjoyed being at the lake. I think the last time he was there was two years ago when he was 92 years old." Charlie DeArmon Jr.





### Sailing, Swimming, Kings Island, Canoeing; Dad was Fun

Dad worked during the day, and liked to watch TV in the evening, and we were not allowed to interrupt. But dinner was an event every night. There was lots of talking and joking, and often we would sit at the table for 30-40 minutes after we were done eating. I still do this today.

Dad said it was the same when he was growing up. On the weekends he liked to make sure we got to do fun things. He took us sailing, to the pool, to Kings Island, canoeing and went sledding with us in the winter. There weren't many 50 year old men sliding down suicide hill when we were kids, but he wasn't about to sit back and let us have all the fun.

“When we were younger, he was very calm, exceptionally well mannered, intelligent and knowledgeable, and he was always laughing about something.”

### Dinner with Grandpa

When we were all younger, he was very calm, exceptionally well mannered, intelligent and knowledgeable, and he was always laughing about something. Nothing was ever a crisis; he just seemed to always know the right thing to do if there was a problem.

He was always working around the house and fixing things; each weekend he had a to-do list, and he actually got the things done.

The last several years, we have all enjoyed having dinner at Grandpa's, and I know he really truly loved it too and was so grateful to have that time with his family.



### From Corporal Directly to First Sergeant

Dad's rank was Corporal then he was advanced directly to 1<sup>st</sup> Sargent. It should go corporal, sergeant, staff Sgt., Tech sergeant, to first sergeant. Many guys were upset.

He was in the office where people came in and were assigned to different places in Japan. They might have 1000 guys come in for a few days, then go out.

It was a lot of work to get this done without errors, but he handled it well. So they made him master sergeant hoping he would re-enlist. It did not work.

## Scenes from a Life

### “It’s a shame he won’t live.”

Charles Wuichet DeArmon Sr, was born on April 24, 1926, at Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Ohio. He was not due to be born until June. He was lucky to survive in those days being born so early. He was very tiny. When his mother’s friends came to see the new baby, they said “He sure is cute. It is a shame he won’t live.” This very much upset Grandma. Then he went and lived 94 years.

### The Mongoose

Dad was on vacation with his mom and dad at a park in Northern Indiana when he saw a man with a Mongoose. It was in a box, half completely covered so you could not see in, and half covered with a screen. The mongoose would not come out where he could be seen so the man offered to crack the lid a little. Dad loved it and thought he just had to have one. He built a box just like he had seen and made it happen.

### The Sneaking Out

After graduating from Fairview High School in 1944, Dad was drafted and sent to Chicago to process and then onto anti-aircraft basic training at Fort Bliss near El Paso, Texas. While waiting to be assigned, the whole company got dysentery. Dad was hospitalized for three weeks and they couldn’t cure him.

Towards the end he was feeling better. He snuck out of the hospital one night and went to the movie. In the dark theater, he inadvertently sat down next to his nurse who just happened to also be in the theater. He got drug back to the hospital by his ear. They never could cure the dysentery, so they put in his chart - NO KP ever! He also had to have an office job. He feels very lucky on both counts.



### The Marriage

After the War, Dad attended the University of Cincinnati on the GI Bill. The University of Cincinnati had a mandatory co-op program for engineering students.

His co-op job was in the Traffic Engineering Department at the Dayton City Building, where he met Marlene Smalley, who worked in personnel.

They started dating and fell in love. Dad graduated from UC on Oct 31, 1952 and married Marlene the next day. They were married for 51 years.





## Three Decades as a HSA Racing Sailor; a Family Man First and Foremost

As a teenager, he and his friends called themselves the Kenwood AC. They liked to go to Sunnyside and dance and hear the big bands play. His favorite was Glen Miller.

He graduated from Fairview High School in 1944. He served in the Philippines in World War II, and upon his return he went to work with his Dad and brother at Tower Paint. He later attended the University of Cincinnati, graduating in 1952.

He claims while visiting his friends at Miami University, one night he drove down the slant walk. He was a traffic engineer for the City of Dayton from 1952 to 1986 occasionally accompanied by his pet mongoose.

**“...when he no longer could remember how to start the lawnmower, he took it out to the sidewalk and waited for someone to come along and start it for him. Someone always did.”**

He played an integral part in the original freeway design of I-75 through Dayton, and was a past president of the Institute of Traffic Engineers. At the city building he met Marlene Smalley and they embarked on what was known as the “city hall romance”. They married and spent 51 years together.

Chuck is preceded in death by his parents, his wife M. Marlene (Smalley) DeArmon, his sister Susanne Ashmun, and his brother Rutherford M. DeArmon Jr. He is survived by his children Charlie DeArmon Jr

(Amy), Jane Brooks (Steve), and Patricia Womacks (Joe); his grandchildren Chris D’Mello, Charlie DeArmon III, Brendan Draper, Heather Brooks (Jan), Sydney Brooks, Kevin DeArmon, Megan DeArmon, Kayla Draper, and Ian Brooks.

His family was very important to him, and after he moved to Brookdale of Oakwood (care facility) he still enjoyed returning home each Sunday to have dinner with his children and grandchildren.

He loved his house and felt so lucky to have it. He enjoyed sitting on his front porch and watching the neighborhood. He spent his later years working in the yard as much as he could and when he no longer could remember how to start the lawnmower, he took it out to the sidewalk and waited for someone to come along and start it for him. Someone always did.

He was interested in Dayton history and authored several family histories. While his children were growing up, he spent many fun-filled weekends with them sailboat racing on his Y-Flyer at Hueston Woods where he was a member of the Sailing Association for over 30 years.

He loved travelling to Ft Lauderdale, Florida, Lake Tahoe and Las Vegas with Marlene, and later vacationed in Ft Lauderdale with the entire family each year.

The family would like to thank the staffs of Brookdale Oakwood and Oak Creek Terrace for taking such good care of him the last 2 years. I don’t know what we would have done without you. *Jane Brooks (daughter)*

# HSA Remembers



“I was thinking about Chuck and how he compared to my dad. There was a generational love for sailing because of those two. Chuck had Charlie sailing with him as a young boy and that created a lifetime love of sailing with Charlie.

“I heard from Charlie that Chuck enthusiastically supported the grandchildren with the accumulation of Sunfish. Chuck got to see their growth to become accomplished sailors.

“It was fun to see chuck age gracefully and come to the lake periodically. He always went out on the Committee Boat to observe the action. That was a very good accomplishment for being in his late 80’ and early 90’s. sailing is good for the body and soul as evidenced in Chuck.

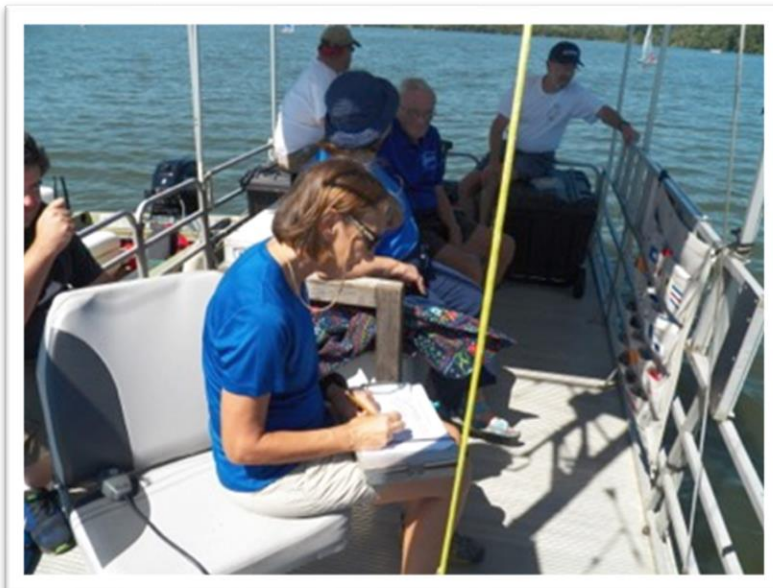
“I will have to say that Chuck had a life well lived with his family unit embracing the love of sailing. Chuck, may you always be on starboard tack.” Pete Peters



Charles Sr. with grandchild Megan



Charlie and his dad at the lake



“I remember Chuck DeArmon as being the quietest sailor around. I don’t think he was ever in a protest. He was a gentleman sailor!”  
Jerry Callahan

That’s Charles Sr. in the middle of a crowd on the committee boat in the pre-COVID days. Rose is in the foreground with others from HSA around: Todd Rovito, Jim Cooper, and John Shipley.