

IN MEMORIAM



WILLIAM JENNINGS HARGIS, Jr.
1923–2008

William Jennings Hargis, Jr., Emeritus Professor of Marine Science, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary, passed away on 17 October 2008. He is survived by his wife, Marcia; 6 children; and 15 grandchildren. He will long be remembered for his dynamic leadership in building the Virginia Institute of Marine Science into one of the nation's largest research and graduate education facilities focusing on the coastal ocean and estuarine science.

Dr. Hargis was born 24 November 1923 in the southwestern corner of Virginia. He fell in love with Chesapeake Bay during childhood summers on Tangier Island. He earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in Biology at the University of Richmond and a Ph.D. at Florida State University. He began his research career at the Virginia Fisheries Laboratory in Gloucester Point in 1955. Dr. Hargis became director of the laboratory in 1959, a position he held for 22 years. The name of the laboratory was changed to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in 1962, and Dr. Hargis was instrumental in transforming the Institute from a single building to a 40-acre campus with 11 research and education buildings and a field laboratory on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

One of Dr. Hargis' most notable innovations was to make advisory service a crucial part of VIMS' mission. Now mandated in the Codes of Virginia, advisory service provides VIMS faculty the opportunity and obligation to offer unbiased scientific advice on decisions affecting Virginia's marine resources and the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Dr.

Hargis' leadership placed VIMS in a formal advisory role to the Marine Resources Commission, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Health, the General Assembly, and industry.

One of Dr. Hargis' most notable accomplishments on the national scene was his role in the early 1970s as a champion of coastal and estuarine studies, when most other institutes and scientists were making a push toward open-ocean "blue-water" oceanography. Dr. Hargis' focus on coastal-zone issues helped guide the direction of the National Sea Grant Program and led to his appointment as the first Chair of the Coastal States Organization. In 1971, President Nixon appointed Dr. Hargis vice chair of the new National Advisory Committee on Oceans and Atmosphere; President Ford later appointed him chair.

Sometimes overshadowed by his reputation in national and international marine policy circles, Dr. Hargis also enjoyed a long career as an internationally renowned marine parasitologist. His first love, monogenic trematodes of marine fishes, led him and his students to Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica, Africa, and the Indian Ocean on collecting trips. For many years he compiled and edited the *Bibliography of the Monogenea Literature of the World, 1758 to 1982*. After retiring as Director of VIMS in 1981, Dr. Hargis returned to research, focusing on the imperiled oyster resource of Chesapeake Bay and the role of historic oyster reefs in the Bay's ecology.

Dr. Hargis was very proud of his military service during World War