

# Purcell Jones, 93; service Sunday

John Purcell Jones, 93, of Morehead City, passed away Wednesday, June 24, 2015, at Carteret General Hospital in Morehead City.

His service is at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at Glad Tidings in Morehead City with the Rev. Tim Havlicek officiating. The family will have a private graveside service.

Mr. Jones was born in the community of Waygram in Scotland County and grew up in Clinton. He graduated from Clinton High School and later studied at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from which he graduated in 1950. He went on to receive his master's degree at UNC with a degree in physical education in 1955.

Mr. Jones and his late wife, Helen, had met when they were both 16 in Warsaw and they were married four years later on March 9, 1943. Mr. Jones joined the U.S. Navy where he served in the Seabees from 1943 to 1945 on the Solomon Islands in the Pacific during the war.

Upon graduation from UNC, Mr. Jones and Helen returned to Clinton, where he taught and coached at Clinton High School.

Mr. Jones was a counselor at Camp Morehead in the 1940s and became assistant director in 1957. In 1959 he purchased the camp from Pat Crawford, its founder. Camp Morehead would become Mr. Jones' and Helen's year-round mission, providing summer adventures and character building experiences for thousands of young men and women until 1995. Campers came from across North Carolina, Virginia and beyond to learn outdoor skills and lifelong lessons along Bogue Sound.

In 1995 Camp Morehead was developed into the Village of Camp Morehead, but the memories, friendships and stories continue today, a testament to Mr. Jones' love of the outdoors and young people.

Mr. Jones was one of the state's most respected waterfowlers, hunting in Canada for decades each October and building a decoy collection from across the mid-Atlantic. He was the founder of Ducks Unlimited in Carteret County and a founding board member of the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center on Harkers Island, where he continued to work until his death. His commitment to waterfowling traditions and his love for hunting collectibles is known throughout the waterfowl community.

Mr. Jones loved golf and served as the president of the Morehead City Country Club, where he and Helen were awarded The Order of the Longleaf Pine by Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. Mr. Jones was an active member of the club and with Helen's help, they created the Seafood Tournament that is still talked about to this day.

Mr. Jones' influence reaches across the state and around the country, living on in generations of community leaders, teachers, coaches and professionals of every field who were shaped by their summers at Camp Morehead and their lifelong friendships with Mr. Jones.

His love for waterfowling and the outdoors will carry on as the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center continues to preserve and share the heritage he lived and loved.

His friendship will remain a treasured gift for all who knew him.

He is survived by his daughter, Helen Davis of Morehead City; son, John Purcell Jones and wife Jacqueline Parham of Garner; brother, Daniel Steven Jones of Clinton; grandchild, Preston Davis and great-grandchild, Eleanor Gale Guthrie.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen Jones; parents, Roland and Eliza Jones; brother, Roland Jones Jr.; and granddaughter, Ashley Davis Guthrie.

The family will receive friends at the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center Sunday for a reception from 1 to 2 p.m. The visitation will follow from 2 to 5 p.m. at the museum.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center, P.O. Box, 556 Harkers Island, N.C. 28531.

Arrangements are by Munden Funeral Home & Crematory Inc. of Morehead City. Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.mundenfuneralhome.net](http://www.mundenfuneralhome.net).