



Hayward Lee Gregg

July 10, 1938 - May 17, 2025

Hayward Lee Gregg, affectionately known as "Pop" and to his close friends as "Seaweed," passed away peacefully at his home in New Castle, Delaware, on May 17, 2025, at the age of 86. Born on July 10, 1938, in Bybee, Tennessee, to Ruby (Metcalf) Gregg and Paul Gregg, Hayward's legacy is defined by strength, service, and a deep devotion to his family, his country, and his faith.

A proud United States Marine Corps veteran, Hayward lived a life marked by honor, courage, and commitment. After graduating from Parris Island, SC, he quickly rose to the rank of Sergeant, and in 1958, earned an undisclosed security clearance. He was transported to Italy aboard the USS Newport News, where he was stationed at NATO Headquarters in Naples. During his assignment, he was entrusted with the distinguished role of serving as personal security officer to Admiral Robert Briscoe, commander at Allied Forces Southern Europe & NATO — a role of deep trust and responsibility. One of the defining moments of his service came in February 1958, during the rescue mission of a downed United States Air Force DC-3 aircraft that crashed on Mount Vesuvius, carrying 16 service members. When initial rescue efforts were ordered to stand down due to a whiteout, Hayward persisted, determined to reach the downed crew. His actions reflected the bravery, selflessness, and unrelenting resolve that defined his military career. Following his military service, Hayward embarked on a successful 38-year career at General Motors, where his strong work ethic and leadership earned

the respect and admiration of his colleagues. A proud and active member of the United Auto Workers Union, he served with distinction as a committeeman, representing and advocating for his fellow workers with integrity.

Hayward was not only strong in character but also in body. As a competitive powerlifter, Hayward earned multiple championships, along with state and world records, while competing with the American Drug-Free Powerlifting Association — achievements that earned him elite status in the sport. He became a three-time Delaware Mr. Iron Man, a testament to his enduring discipline and passion for the sport. He was also a passionate motorcycle enthusiast. Hayward reveled in the freedom of long rides. One of his proudest moments was a solo trip to Alaska on his Harley at the age of 75. An unforgettable journey that exemplified his independence, adventurous spirit, and love for the open road.

At the heart of Hayward's life was his beloved family. He shared 61 wonderful years of marriage with his wife, Ottie Marie Gregg, and together, they built a loving home in New Castle. They raised five children, who were a constant source of pride and joy: Dean Lewis (predeceased), Denise Comer (Chad), Donna Oals (Mike), Paul Gregg (Kim), and Marie Gregg. He was a devoted grandfather and great-grandfather to many, leaving behind a legacy of love, wisdom, and quiet strength. Later in life, he found peace and joy in taking daily walks with his beloved dog, Colt — moments of quiet companionship that brought him comfort and connection.

Hayward is lovingly remembered by his siblings: Jonah Gregg (Barbara), Paulette Derkach (Nestor), and Donald Gregg (Cathi), along with several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister, Jean Sullivan (John), his beloved son Dean, and his parents, Ruby and Paul Gregg.

Hayward was a man of deep Christian faith, which served as the guiding force in how he lived, loved, and served. His beliefs were the quiet foundation of his life, shaping his values, his humility, and his kindness. He lived by the teachings of Christ — with hope, grace, and compassion.

Though he is no longer with us, his spirit lives on — in every story shared, every lesson remembered, and every life touched by his. We take comfort in knowing he now rests in the eternal peace of the Lord he faithfully served.

Goodbye, Pop. Thank you for everything. We will carry your love with us, always.

Hayward will be laid to rest at the Delaware Veterans Cemetery and services will be private for the family. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to your charity of choice in Hayward's memory.

Cemetery Details

Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery

2465 Chesapeake City Road
Bear, DE

Tribute Wall

RG

“ *The Griffith girls(Roni Griffith and Lisa Griffith Orr) want to let Marie and the kid's know how sorry we are for the loss of Hayward. We have been neighbors for many many years and will miss seeing Hayward in his yard or walking the block with his dog. Our prayers are with Denise, Donna, Marie and Paul. Marie we are so sorry for the loss of your husband.*

Roni Griffith - October 19, 2025 at 01:30 AM

DC

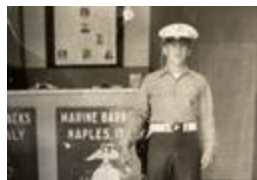
“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Denise Comer - June 02, 2025 at 10:56 AM

DC

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Denise Comer - June 01, 2025 at 01:47 PM

CB

“ Hayward (Seaweed) Gregg will always be loved as the brother he was condolences to Marie & family. rode M/C 50 years with him s better friend cannot be found
He may have left us but he will never be forgotten
May God Bless each and everyone 🙏 Prayers for all. Cuzzin Jay - OTH

Cuzzin Jay Bowhall - May 27, 2025 at 07:17 PM

GE

“ My thoughts and Prayers go out to the family and friends. Many great memories shared with him over the years. RIP

Gary Era - May 27, 2025 at 10:37 AM

CS

“ Prayers to the family at this time .Hayward will be deeply missed I will always remember his walks by him self or with his dog as a neighbor for many years may he RIP Hayward

Cynthia Sagers - May 25, 2025 at 05:43 PM

JG

“ Joyce Greene lit a candle in memory of Hayward Gregg



Joyce Greene - May 25, 2025 at 12:48 PM

SB

“ Jim Bennett (Daddy) and I send our sincere condolences. It was a privilege to know Hayward; he was an honorary pall bearer at Mom's funeral. He will always be remembered with great fondness.

Sandra Bennett - May 25, 2025 at 08:34 AM

JB

“ Jim Bullen purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Hayward Lee Gregg.



Jim Bullen - May 25, 2025 at 07:49 AM

LT

“ Linda and Gary Neil and Tommy purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Hayward Lee Gregg.



Linda and Gary Neil and Tommy - May 24, 2025 at 06:22 PM

LT

“ Linda and Gary Neil and Tommy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Hayward Lee Gregg.

Linda and Gary Neil and Tommy - May 24, 2025 at 06:22 PM

LN

“ *Linda Neil lit a candle in memory of Hayward Gregg*



Linda Neil - May 24, 2025 at 05:45 PM

MR

“ *May you forever ride the heavens with friends and family who have went before you my friend. My prayers for the family and friends.*

Michael Ray - May 24, 2025 at 05:16 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Hayward Lee Gregg.*



May 24, 2025 at 02:46 PM

CC

“ *We are so sorry to read about Hayward's passing. We enjoyed his visits to Amelia County. He and Thomas loved talking about being in the Marines! He was a good man and we know his family is going to miss him tremendously. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. May God's peace be with each of you. With Sympathy, The Dixon Family in Amelia, Virginia.*

Carolyn Dixon Collins - May 24, 2025 at 10:57 AM

KG

“ It was an honor to have been a part of Hayward's life. When he loved you, it was a gift that you would treasure for your lifetime, as I will. Until we meet again Pop, and I love you back! Kimmy

Kimberlie Gregg - May 24, 2025 at 09:23 AM

DS

“ To the family of Hayward Gregg,
Please accept our deepest sympathy for the loss of your husband, father, and grandfather. It is going to be hard not seeing him walking through the neighborhood in the summer and being able to stop and just talk. He was so full of knowledge and he always spoke of great memories of his life. Rest easy Seaweed, God got the best of the best!!!
Dawn and Donald Sagers

Donald Sagers - May 24, 2025 at 09:05 AM

EJ

“ Earnest & Jean Metcalf Jr sent a virtual gift in memory of Hayward Gregg



Earnest & Jean Metcalf Jr - May 23, 2025 at 09:56 PM

LF

“ So very sorry for your family's loss 💜



Linette & Craig Fisher - May 23, 2025 at 07:24 PM