



## Harold Ellis House

January 31, 1958 - November 13, 2020

Harold Ellis House, age 62, died Friday, November 13, 2020 surrounded by his loving family.

Harold was born January 31, 1958 in Warrenton, Virginia to the late Ewing Michael House and Wilma Lee Wood House. He lived in Nokesville for most of his life and treasured his family, farm and community.

Growing up on his family's dairy, Dutchland Farms, Harold cultivated a life long love of agriculture. As a member of the Prince William 4-H Dairy Club, he showed Holstein dairy cows at local and regional fairs. While a member of the Nokesville FFA club at Brentsville District High School, he was awarded the American Farmer Degree and was part of the dairy judging team that won the state contest in 1974; individually he placed 8th at the National Contest the same year. He continued his education at Virginia Tech graduating in 1980 with a BS in Dairy Science. During his time there he was an active member of the Dairy Club and member of the Alpha Zeta Honor Fraternity.

Following graduation, Harold's profession centered on dairy cattle genetics, working as District Sales Manager for Manco Genetics in Southwest Virginia. He was promoted to Sales Director, helping dairy farmers in the Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina area. In 1987, he returned to the family farm where he dedicated his life to developing the family dairy herd. He also served the greater agriculture community as president of the Prince William/Fauquier Holstein Association, director of the Virginia Holstein Association, and Chairman of the Northern Virginia Farm Service Agency. He was currently serving on the board of directors for Genex Cooperative (URUS), a global company, affording him the opportunity to help shape the direction of animal agriculture genetics for years to come. Additionally his service gave him opportunities to travel and meet farmers from around the world. He found this service with Genex to be especially meaningful and fulfilling.

Harold was raised in Greenwich Presbyterian Church, where he once served as a deacon, and also was an attendee at the Manassas Church of the Brethren.

Harold is survived by his High School sweetheart and wife of 42 years Donna Kline. They had three children, Daniel House and wife Rebecca (Weyers Cave, VA), Lora Vasquez and husband Javier (Manassas Park, VA), and Brian House and wife Laura (Union Bridge, MD) and 6 grandchildren, Bethany, Leo, Sasha, Hailey, Emma, Kathleen, and an additional grandson due in February. Harold's grandchildren held a special place in his heart, Grandad could always make them laugh and smile. He had two brothers Paul House and wife Mary (Nokesville, VA) and Dale House and wife Lisa (Nokesville, VA). Harold is predeceased by his parents, his Sister Julia (Judy) Mayhugh, her husband William (Billy), and Sister-in-law, Flora House.

A Private Family Funeral Service will be held Wednesday, Nov, 18th at 1:30 pm followed by interment at Valley View Cemetery. A live stream of the service will be available at [www.greenwichpres.org/livestream](http://www.greenwichpres.org/livestream) and the family would be honored if you could join them virtually. Due to current limitations on gatherings, the family invites you to share memories of Harold via e-mail to Lora at [Flutist625@gmail.com](mailto:Flutist625@gmail.com). Condolences may also be shared at [www.piercefh.com](http://www.piercefh.com)

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to one of the following causes:

Dairy Science Scholarship Endowment at Virginia Tech. Checks can be made out to the Virginia Tech Foundation, mailed to Virginia Tech Foundation 902 Prices Fork Road, Suite 4500, Blacksburg, VA 24061 with "Dairy Science Scholarship" written on the memo line.

Farthest Corners. Checks can be made out to Farthest Corners, mailed to Farthest Corners 15305 Vint Hill RD, Nokesville, VA 20181 with "Memorial Harold House" written on the memo line.

# Cemetery

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## **Valley View Cemetery**

12614 Valley View Drive

Nokesville, VA, 20181

# Comments

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“ My memories of Harold are of a smiling, sweet & happy man; a very kind soul. We send the family our condolences for your tremendous loss. We continue to keep you all in our hearts & prayers. Maria (Wood) and Patrick O'Hara



**Maria O'Hara** - December 03, 2020 at 10:26 AM

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“ Lora,

So sorry for your loss. You and your family will remain in my prayers.

Dana Sullivan

**Dana Sullivan** - December 02, 2020 at 09:20 AM

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“ I looked up to Harold growing up showing cows at the area fairs. To me he was a "Larger than Life" kinda guy that was much bigger and stronger than I with a soft spoken voice and a very caring nature. Didn't cross paths after that but will always have those great memories of him.

**Sonny Johnson** - November 19, 2020 at 06:54 AM

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“ My heart breaks for you Donna and your family. I know how much unconditional love there was between you and Harold. Harold was a kind man with a big heart and always had a chuckle or laugh to share. As a younger 4-Her I always looked up to him. He knew dairy cows and he taught me so much. I haven't thought about those years at the Prince William County Fair dairy shows and 4-H Dairy Judging in a long time, but as I look back Harold was always there. Rock solid. We reconnected at VT in the Dairy Club where he again was a natural leader. He lived his life for others, helping them to be the best they could be. Rest In Peace old friend. May your heavenly pastures be green, skies blue and there be a few Holsteins keeping you company until you are reunited with your family. You will be missed.

**debbie brown cross** - November 18, 2020 at 07:55 PM

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“ Donna & family-  
It was truly shocking and very sad to hear of Harold's passing. He was a father figure for me most definitely every time we got together for Genex board meetings or when he and I attended seminars together. I'll never forget him helping me "smuggle" a keg of Spotted Cow beer from WI. He got the giggles while we all hauled it out the back door! Harold was a man everyone truly respected, when he spoke we all listened intently to his words of thoughtful wisdom. I will miss him greatly . Many thoughts prayers and hugs to your family in the loss of such a wonderful man.  
Jody Schaap

**Jody Schaap** - November 18, 2020 at 07:41 PM

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“ Dale & family,  
Sincere condolences in the passing of your brother Harold. May you be comforted with the memories you made with your brother over the years on Dutchland Farm . I remember delivering parts to you and your brother evenings on my way home from "Warrenton Auto Parts" & was always happy to do it for you. God Bless all of your family .  
Frank Jeffries  
Warrenton Auto Parts

**Frank M. Jeffries** - November 18, 2020 at 06:25 PM

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“ Harold was an amazing guy!The best memories of when I was helping take care of his Mom,Wilma Lee,my young son Isaiah who is now 19,had such a great time with her.We all loved Harold, The Entire House family is Rock Strong!You can't get any better than that!Harold, can't wait to see you in Heaven!Love you guys  
Dora Rhodes

**Dora Rhodes** - November 18, 2020 at 06:16 AM

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“ Donna and family, My deepest sympathy to to all. Harold was a very special person and I am devastated that he is gone. Harold and I were good friends in High School and I was the butt of a couple of his jokes in FFA. He got me good while he was training for Dairy Judging. He had about 6 cups of milk in front of him and I asked what are you doing he said "tasting the different milks to see what kind of cow they came from, you want to try it?" Sure I said. Well he got me good because of course all the milk was sour and they were tasting to see what caused it to go sour. He was laughing so hard he had tears in his eyes. Brad Douglas was laughing as well. Me? I was trying to get the nasty taste out of my mouth. The last time we talked just a few weeks ago he was bringing me up to date on how proud he was of their children and being a proud granddaddy, how his life had been so fulfilling being married to Donna. We talked about how we all needed to get together more often. I am so glad he was a man of God and I am looking forward to that great reunion in heaven with him. God's Blessing to you and the family. Donna know my family is here for you and we will forever keep you in our hearts and prayers.

**Kenneth Edward Shumaker** - November 17, 2020 at 07:04 PM



“ Kenneth, I will share this with Brad as well, thanks for sharing

**Dora Rhodes** - November 18, 2020 at 06:04 AM

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“ I greatly enjoyed my interactions with Harold in his role on the Genex Board and will always be grateful for his leadership to the cooperative. We enjoyed some laughs and embraced the challenge of creating good business strategy. My deep sympathies to the family.  
Angie Coburn

**Angie Coburn** - November 17, 2020 at 04:49 PM

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“ Donna,

I am so sorry to hear of Harold's passing. I very much enjoyed meeting the two of you and seeing the farm.

Warner W Williams

Warner Williams - November 17, 2020 at 04:23 PM

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“ Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Harold Ellis House.



November 17, 2020 at 02:43 PM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Harold Ellis House.



November 17, 2020 at 02:23 PM

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“ Heavenly Light was purchased for the family of Harold Ellis House.



November 17, 2020 at 02:18 PM

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“ So sorry to hear of Harold's passing. I served with him on the Genex board and remember his contributions of time and talent.  
Alfred Wanner

Alfred Wanner - November 17, 2020 at 02:10 PM

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“ "I was extremely sad to learn of the passing of Harold. Harold was the one who was the one who was my mentor for genex board orientation.I looked at Harold as a father figure for me for our genex board. His humility and wisdom will be greatly missed. He was a friend to everyone. May Jesus who is the prince of peace give peace and comfort to the Harold House family in this time of grief for all of us. Thank you Harold for living a life we all admire." Lamar Gockley

Lamar Gockley - November 17, 2020 at 01:58 PM

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“ Donna my prayer are with you and family. I have know Harold for about 40yrs. he was a great person. Always remember him coming in Covington Store when I worked their he was a very friendly person may he rest in peace. Mary Smallwood

Mary Smallwood - November 17, 2020 at 01:25 PM

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“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Harold Ellis House.



November 17, 2020 at 11:53 AM

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“ My deepest sympathy to Harolds family. I had Harold in my Reproductive Physiology class during his Dairy Science Program at Virginia Tech. He was a wonderful dedicated student a Professor does not forget and his high achievements to his profession and family comes as no surprise. Respectfully, Dick Saacke

Dick Saacke Profeeso Emeritus - November 17, 2020 at 11:40 AM



“ I met Harold about 10 years ago at a Genex meeting in Minneapolis....right away he was a man who was so knowledgable about the industry....he always put his heart and soul into his dairy to create a top program. The more I got to know him after continued years of working with him through Genex, the more I could see how he had deep thought and sincere leadership abilities. He will definitely be missed by many.

Terry Frost

**Terry Frost** - November 17, 2020 at 09:13 AM

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“ My condolences to the House family. I had the honor of teaching Harold while he was Brentsville District. He was a really good guy. I know the greater Nokesville community will miss his passing. All who knew him will miss him.

**Dave Button** - November 17, 2020 at 08:35 AM

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“ Harold was a person you could ask and count on in tough times. I was so lucky to have met such a man.My condolence to Donna and the families. I say families I believe the church would be full and people standing out side if it was normal times. I think of him often and always look forward until we meet again. I say again because when he walk into our meeting room it would get brighter. Dan Tetreault

**Daniel Tetreault** - November 17, 2020 at 06:55 AM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Harold Ellis House.



November 17, 2020 at 06:53 AM

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“ Harold was a man among men. During the last 10 years Harold became a good friend to me. We had numerous discussions that also looked at how to make CRI/GENEX grow and become better for the next generation of producers. Harold always brought another perspective to the table when we had serious discussions. Harold was a rock that was always there for me I'm a better man for having the honor of knowing him. Thank You my friend.

**bobby robertson** - November 16, 2020 at 10:39 PM

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“ My deepest condolences to Donna and family. Unbelievable how quickly things can change in live. The first time I met Harold was when he visited to Netherlands to discuss a potential merger between CRI and Koepon. Harold had sincere interest in everything that was discussed. But he was not only interested in the subjects that were presented to him. Even more his interest was in the people he met and discussed with. Getting a feeling for the people was very imported for him. He loved the herdbooks that Mr. Pon showed him with bulls out of the beginning of the 20th century. These real interests in each other were very important for the successful start of URUS. Harold was a real assets on the CRI side to establish that. We will miss you Harold!  
Roland Bakker

**Roland Bakker** - November 16, 2020 at 09:40 PM

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“ When I first started in 4H showing Holstein cattle I had a mean one I was only nine and she towered over me but my Dad wanted her shown. When it came time for her conformation class all the older boys would scatter except for Harold. He would show that Astronaut beast for my Dad and I. When my Dad died in 96 my son said it's OK mom he's taking care of the cows that have passed now. I wonder if he and Harold are discussing that old Astronaut now.  
Becky Ott

**Becky Ott** - November 16, 2020 at 07:23 PM

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“ I am so very sad to hear of Harold passing. My heart goes out to his family. I have many fond memories of him in school. Harold had a very big, kind heart. I still remember in biology class one year we needed to dissect frogs. I just couldn't do it! Harold very patiently helped me do mine so that I wouldn't get a failing grade. Well kind sir....we will meet again on the other side. I am sure God is blessing you.

**Vicki Hatcher Schaepman** - November 16, 2020 at 06:46 PM

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“ My deepest condolences. Donna was one of my best friends in High School and my heart goes out to her and the House family. I remember getting together with Harold and Donna in our early couple days and making homemade pizzas for the first time. May he see the face of God in Heaven. Rita Rollins White

**Rita RollinsWhite** - November 16, 2020 at 06:00 PM

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“ My deepest condolences to Donna and Harold's family. Harold was really one of my closest friends in high school. Together with his sister-in-law Lorraine Croushorn, we were the winning FFA Dairy Judging Team from Virginia and placed 8th in the nation. Harold was an amazing man with a huge heart. I was bullied a lot in high school and Harold would never tolerate it and became a protector. We both raised dairy cattle and competed at fairs in both FFA and 4H. I am lucky to have spent time with him, Donna, Lorraine and James just a couple of years ago and I was looking forward to seeing him again. And I know I will see him again someday when my time comes too. Until then I'm sure he will watch over all of us from heaven as he did in life. I will miss you Harold. God Bless You and your family. Jim Smith

**Jim Smith** - November 16, 2020 at 02:19 PM