

## Sterling “Dave” Steele

Sterling was born July 16th, 1926 to Ralph Steele and Vera Grindle Steele. He grew up in Brooksville and moved to Stonington when he was 16.

His first boat building experience was when he took his father’s 26’ boat and cut it in half and attached the house end of it to the log cabin he built to use as his bedroom. Sterling was drafted when he was 18 and served overseas in the Philippines during WW II.

Sterling met his future wife, Geraldine at a dance at the Red Barn in Stonington. They got married in 1951 and had three children together, Laurie, Gary and Cheryl. Laurie remembers fishing with her parents as a young girl. Gary has followed in his father’s footsteps and is a commercial fisherman.

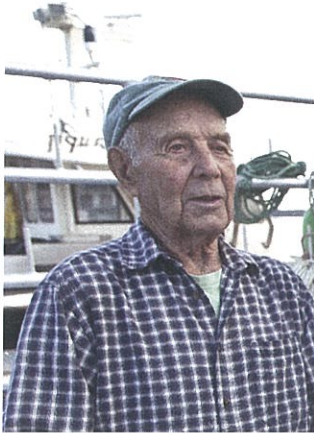
He has taught his grandsons the fishing world. He has been there to help when they were building boats or working on their gear.

Over the years, Sterling has fished in every fishery. He also worked in carpentry, the Sardine factory, and was also the Road Foreman for the Town of Stonington for 16 years and plowed snow for 26.

Sterling fished with Owen Billings and later bought a 32’ wooden boat from him. In 1996 at the age of 69 he got his first brand new boat. He aptly named it “Still Going” with a picture of the Energizer Bunny on the stern. He fishes every season.

Sterling has been active in the Stonington Fire Department since 1976. He is always willing to help anyone and would give you the shirt off his back.

We are proud to induct Sterling Steele into the 2015 Fishermen’s Hall of Fame.



## Lawrence “Junior” Bray

Junior was born July 3rd, 1943 to Lawrence Bray Sr. and Carrie Blastow Bray. Junior fished with his dad a lot. At 13, on a foggy day, he took his father’s boat and hauled all of his father’s traps around Fog Island. After that, his father said he could take his boat anytime.

At 15, Junior quit school and in the winter, he would work on Isle Au Haut piling wood and clearing the road. He had an outboard boat of his own that he went lobstering in for a while. He bought an older boat called the Gale, which after a lot of repairs was made seaworthy.

Junior married Joyce on February 20th, 1965. They had two sons, Brian and Lawrence III.

The people in town could see that Junior was a hard worker and an honest man. Many gave the keys to their business to him so if he ever needed anything after hours; he could get what he needed and would square up with them the next day.

Juniors’ first boat was called the LBJ. He went lobstering and shrimping in her for quite a while. His next boat was called the Brian Lawrence which he continued to lobster, shrimp and scallop in.

Junior and Joyce lost their oldest son, Brian in an ATV accident in 1985 at the age of 17. Junior finished off his third boat, the Joyce Eileen, which he was building at that time and went back to fishing.

Although he has slowed down some over the years, Junior still has fishing in his blood and will probably be fishing for quite some time in the future.

We are proud to induct Lawrence “Junior” Bray Jr. into the 2015 Hall of Fame.



## Wesley Hutchinson

Wesley Hutchinson was born and raised in Brooksville. After finishing school, he came to the Island to find work.

Wesley married Annie Haskell, who also came from a fishing family. They raised two children, Donald and Kathy.

Wesley went to work on the Novelry, a sardine carrier, with Donnie Trundy. Wesley acquired many friends throughout his life. Every fall the crew would go hunting in Orland at Otto Soper’s camp. Otto supplied them their bows and laths for their lobster traps.

Wesley was known for his ability to catch halibut. He was willing to teach anyone how to catch halibut, even a little boy named Paul Dorr.

Wesley always fished by marks. If you knew your marks, you wouldn’t need a chart. He could take you anywhere in the bay with ease.

Though fishing skipped a generation, his granddaughter, Tammy Hagerthy has picked up his love of fishing and is a commercial fisherman.

We are proud to induct Wesley Hutchinson into the 2015 Hall of Fame.

