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## **Carroll 'Gray' Mead, 95, Darien Native; a Career in the Navy, Then in Teaching**

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**Date :** September 26, 2019

Carroll Graham "Gray" Mead, 95, of Williamsville, Vermont, passed away peacefully at the Vernon Green on Saturday, Sept. 14.

He was born on Christmas Day in 1923, to Howard and Rose Mead of Darien, CT. He was their little Christmas Carroll. When Carroll became a teenager, he decided it would be easier to go by Graham. His nickname, Gray, is what all friends and family have known him by for the past 80 years.

At 18, Gray headed to Guilford College in North Carolina, where he met the love of his life, Nancy. With the commencement of World War II, Gray enlisted in the Navy.

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Before being shipped out, Nancy and Gray tied the knot and were happily married for 61 years. They were blessed with three children: Bobby, Kenneth and Joyce.

During his 31 years in the Navy, he served as a sonar man and enjoyed traveling the seas on destroyer escorts, submarines, sub tenders and ice breakers. He retired with the rank of chief petty officer. Upon retiring, Gray obtained his teaching degree and with his beloved wife, Nancy, taught for 20 years in East Lyme.

— [an obituary](#) from the [Atamaniuk Funeral Home](#), where condolence messages may be left.

After retiring from teaching, Gray and Nancy enjoyed traveling the world and moving to Vermont. The homes of their beloved children and grandchildren were Nancy and Gray's favorite places to visit. Gray had infinite love for his family. They were his pride and joy. There was never a day that went by when he wouldn't share with others about their accomplishments.

After Nancy passed away on July 29, 2007, he moved to Vernon Hall. He quickly became a contributing part of this community. Gray was a gifted pianist. He could tickle the ebony and ivory completely by ear. He graced the Vernon Home Community with his talent and will be long remembered for the many hours of enjoyment he gave to his fellow residents.

Gray will be forever loved and missed by his family. He leaves his children and their spouses: Kenneth and Betsy Mead of Washington, D.C., and Joyce and David VanPamelen of Newfane, Vermont.

Additionally, he is survived by his granddaughters and their spouses: Hillary and David Ziegler and Jennifer and Eddie Dunn; and great grandchildren: Owen Ziegler, Keelin Dunn and Connor Dunn, all of Virginia. He was predeceased by his son, Bobby and wife, Nancy.

A Celebration of Life was held at Vernon Hall in Vernon, Vermont on Sunday, Sept. 22. His burial was on Sept. 23 at the Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Randolph, Vermont.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his name may be made to [Wounded Warrior Project](#)

, PO Box 758541, Topeka, KS 66675 or [K9s For Warriors](#).

To sign an online guestbook with messages of condolence please visit [www.atamaniuk.com](http://www.atamaniuk.com).