

Harold R. Mace

May 23, 1939 – October 8, 2024

Harold R. Mace, 85, was born to Kermit and Lilly Mace in Edmond, OK, on May 23, 1939, and passed away on October 8, 2024. Following high school graduation, he attended Central State University (now the University of Central Oklahoma). He taught in an elementary school in Oklahoma City, OK, and later served as an elementary school principal. He later accepted a position at Oklahoma State University as the director of Fire Service Training. A short time later, he was named the Director of OSU Fire Protection Publications. In 1976, Harold and Sandra K. Walker were married and became a blended family with Sandra's son, Dean Walker, and Harold's daughter and son, Robin and Randy Mace. Harold was an exceptional conversationalist, recalling unique details about stories he would relate to others. Harold and Sandra traveled extensively by land, sea, and air. Harold had a significant impact on the modern era of The International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) and FPP. He also had a significant impact on the modernization of Oklahoma Fire Service Training, the renaissance of the School of Fire Protection and Safety, and the creation of the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress. Nationally, he was a pioneer in the development of the NFPA professional qualifications standards, in addition to being a major figure in the national fire service politics. Harold's impact on the fire protection programs at OSU and the fire service on the national level were immediate and impactful. In 1986, Harold was named department head of the School of Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology. Because of his leadership, the school increased from 60 to nearly 200 students. Harold retired in 1992 and stayed active working on the farm, spending time with grandchildren, and traveling. Harold is survived by his wife, his daughter, Robin Mace, and two sons, Randy Mace (Lizzie), McKinney, TX, and Dean Walker (Robin), Stillwater, OK. He is also survived by nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.