IN MEMORIAM

J. Michael Medart

September 5, 1956 – October 27, 2026



A Life of Integrity, Leadership and Kindness

The marine industry has lost an extraordinary leader and an even better human being with the passing of Michael “Mike” Medart, third-generation leader of Medart Inc.

Mike was a man of enormous integrity, kindness and generosity. A servant leader in every sense, he understood that the measure of leadership was not simply business success, but how you treated people along the way. He had a remarkable ability to make everyone feel valued, respected and part of his extended family.

“Michael Medart was a devoted family man who extended that same sense of family to everyone who worked alongside him. He led by example, building relationships based on trust, respect, and a genuine desire to see others succeed. One of his greatest qualities was his ability to see potential in people that they may not have recognized in themselves,” said Andrew Carlson, vice president of Medart Marine.

“I know this firsthand because I was one of those people,” added Carlson. “Twenty-two years ago, Michael took a chance on a 27-year-old kid with no distribution experience.”

Mike began working in the family business while attending school, learning alongside his father. Named president and CEO in 1994, he grew Medart into a business with seven locations and more than 250 associates. Yet, despite his success, he never lost sight of what mattered most — people.

His commitment to service extended throughout the industry, including leadership roles as president of the National Marine Distributors Association (NMDA) and chairman of the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors.

A devoted husband, father and grandfather, Mike took particular pride in seeing his son Griffin become president in October 2026, continuing the company's 114-year legacy into its fourth generation of family leadership.

He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Susan; their children, Griffin, Mason and Hayden; and his grandchildren.

As Carlson reflected, “He will be deeply missed, but his influence will be felt for generations to come.”

Mike was truly one of the best of people. His kindness, integrity and genuine care for others touched countless lives. He will be deeply missed, not only for the leader he was, but for the friend, mentor and remarkable human being so many were fortunate to know.

As Carlson beautifully expressed, “We are all better for having known him.”