

In Memoriam

Dr. Richard Soldner

Dr. Richard “Doc” Soldner, Springfield, Ohio, 80, passed away peacefully in Bradenton, Fla., on January 4, 2022.

He was son of the late Dr. Paul Soldner and Helen (Coombs) Soldner and 57-year husband to Deanna (Burns) Soldner.

It was Doc’s calling to care for sick and injured animals. He earned his undergraduate degree in agriculture from Ohio State University in 1963 and then his doctorate in veterinary medicine in 1967. He was a member of the dairy judging team in 1962, tying as high individual at the Eastern States Exposition.

He returned to Springfield to work for his father at Springfield Animal Hospital. He eventually became an equal partner and then owner and sole proprietor when his father retired in 1981. Doc sold his practice in 2001 and entered semi-retirement, performing relief work for several years before officially retiring.

Doc also raised Jersey cattle, purchasing his first registered animal at the Hearstone Whitehall Heifer Sale in 1956. Ric-A-Dea Jerseys was managed with the herd at Young’s Jersey Dairy in Yellow Springs, Ohio. Doc and his children and grandchildren exhibited cattle at local, district and national Jersey shows.

Doc was a member of the American Jersey Cattle Association and the Ohio Jersey Breeders Association, which he served as president and director. In 2003, he chaired the National Heifer Sale and served on the executive committee for the AJCA-National All-Jersey Inc. Annual Meetings, held in Ohio.

Doc believed in paying back community support of his business with service. While he did not seek the limelight, others naturally sought his counsel and input. He led with quiet intelligence and introspection.

He was a member of veterinary medical associations at the national, state, and local levels and 27-year president of the Clark County Board of Health. He also presided over the Northwestern Board of Education and was a longtime member of the Rotary Club of Springfield. He served Clark County as president of the fair board, advisor of the junior fair board, and chair of the 4-H dairy committee. He was recognized as an Ohio Friend of 4-H for his 30 years of service to the organization.

Doc was a member of the United Methodist Church in Springfield and Parrish, Fla. He also was vice president of the Veranda Springs Homeowners Association in Parrish.

In addition to his wife, Doc is survived

by daughter Lori (Russ) Ballentine; son Jeff (Martha) Soldner; son-in-law Tim Mosure; six grandchildren; trusty companion Reagan; and many friends.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Susan (Soldner) Mosure.

Memorials are suggested to the Susan Mosure Memorial Fund (to support of children with autism), CharitySmith Nonprofit Foundation, 13100 Filly Lane, Truckee, CA 96161 or <https://charitysmith.org/memorial-funds/susan-mosure/>.

David Charles Kunde

David Charles Kunde, Manchester, Iowa, 74, passed away on January 7, 2022, at Covenant Mercy One in Waterloo, Iowa.

He was born on July 25, 1947, eldest of 10 children to the late Harry Charles Kunde and Anna Mary (Miller) Kunde in Clinton, Iowa. He attended rural schools in Clinton and Jackson counties and graduated from the Maquoketa School District in 1966. He served in the Army Reserves from November 1966 to September 1972 and married Donna Maria Durey on December 30, 1972.

David began his career as a farmer near Zwingle after graduating from high school and moved to the farm south of Manchester in January 1974. He established Kunde Jersey Farms with his family in 1975 with a down payment earned from the sale of Sleeping Rosanne for \$10,700 in the 1974 All American Jersey Sale. “Rosanne” was Reserve National Grand Champion in 1974 and earned the title again the next two years for Happy Valley Farm of Harrodsburg, Ky.

The 250-cow herd at Kunde Jersey Farm is enrolled on REAP and has a 2021 lactation average of 19,493 lbs. milk, 947 lbs. fat and 705 lbs. protein. With the latest appraisal, the herd includes 35 Excellent and 154 Very Good cows and has a herd average of 84.6%.

The Kundes have hosted two farm tours held during annual meetings of the national Jersey organizations, one in 1989 when he and Donna served as co-chairs with another couple and again in 2021. David and Donna received the American Jersey Cattle Club’s Young Jersey Breeder award in 1979. Daughter Jennifer Zumbach received the organization’s award in 2018.

David was a member of the Midwest Dairy Association, the Iowa State Dairy Association, and the Delaware County Dairy Council. He sat on boards for Iowa Dairy Products and Swiss Valley Cooperative.

For 55 years, he was a leader of the Milo Livestock 4-H Club. He guided his children and their friends in the early years and then grandson, Karl. David volunteered extensively with Delaware County 4-H,

coaching the dairy judging team, and establishing a food stand to raise money for out-of-state activities. He earned a meritorious service award from 4-H and was inducted into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame.

He received the Ralph Keeling Leadership Award in 2001 and the Iowa Master Farmer in 2003.

David was most proud of his kids and grandkids, whom he included in daily activities. He gave tractor and Gator rides, took them fishing, treated them to ice cream and played games like cards and checkers. He cherished these moments as a means of interacting and passing down his love of farming.

In addition to his wife of 49 years, daughter, Jennifer (Dave) of Coggin, and grandson, Karl, he is survived by three other children, Carrie (Jason) Steele of Lockridge, and Michael Kunde and Daniel (Jill) Kunde, both of Manchester; nine other grandchildren; three brothers, Gary (Mary Ann) Kunde of Bellevue, Steven (Joan) Kunde of Dubuque, and Randy (Samantha) Kunde of Chehalis, Wash.; four sisters, Mary Ann (Russ) Wenger of Rogersville, Mo., Kathy (Roy) Snook of Tipton, A.J. Kunde of Tinley Park, Ill., and Amy (Dale) Bargloff of Denver, Colo.; two sisters-in-law; two brothers-in-law; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his in-laws, Forrest and Martha Durey, two brothers, Tim in infancy, and Roger, and a nephew.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to begin a scholarship in David’s honor through the Delaware County 4-H Foundation.

Joshua Matthew Parks

Joshua “Josh” Matthew Parks, Morristown, Tenn., 37, passed away on January 11, 2022.

The son of Dr. Daniel and Mitzi Parks and Sharon Ottinger (Russell), he was born on July 26, 1984. He graduated from Cocke County High School and attended the University of Tennessee.

Josh and his family operated Aspen Grove Jerseys, a Registered Jersey herd in Morristown. The herd was established in 1990 as a 4-H project for Josh and eventually included his nephew, Dylan Ellenburg, and now Alison and Lauren Graves of Talbot, Tenn., who manage a small herd that traces to some of the elite animals. Aspen Grove Jerseys is enrolled on REAP and has a lactation average of 19,051 lbs. milk, 1,241 lbs. fat and 654 lbs. protein. The herd includes five Excellent and three Very Good cows.

He was a lifetime member of the Ameri-

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can Jersey Cattle Association and very active in Jersey youth activities. He placed second in the 2005 National Jersey Youth Achievement Contest and received both the Jack C. Nisbet Scholarship and the Reuben R. Cowles Youth Award. He placed in youth production contests many times, winning the 2005 Pot O'Gold Production Contest and Division I of the 2004 National Youth Production Contest with Long Distance Rogue Daisy-ET.

Josh regularly exhibited cattle at the state level and the All American Junior Jersey Show, where he twice showed a class protein winner.

He sent several bulls to A.I., including Sir Patrick of Aspen Grove, who ranked as high as #10 among Active A.I. sires, and Keystone Duke Braveheart. He developed many females ranked for genetic merit, including a line that traces to Duncan Belle. He was pictured on the cover of the May 2006 issue of the *Jersey Journal* with one of them, Hallmark Bella A-ET. He developed a matriarch that produced more than 200,000 lbs. milk lifetime and consigned animals to the All American Jersey Sale and the Pot O'Gold Sale as well.

He served the Tennessee Junior Jersey Cattle Club as president and vice president and was honored with the Clyde Chappell Award for his work with 4-H.

In addition to his parents and nephew, he is survived by a brother, Bryant Ottinger of Newport; several aunts and uncles; a niece; and extended friends and family.

Alice Jean Billman

Alice Jean Billman, Wadsworth, Ohio, 68, passed away unexpectedly on January 9, 2022.

She was born to the late Randall V. Billman and Florence Kaufman Billman and grew up on the family dairy farm, Praldo Jerseys, in Burbank, Ohio. She graduated from Norwayne High School and Ashland University.

Alice worked as a data analyst and programming professional in software development and database design for more than 25 years. At the time of her passing, she was a data analyst for Rite Aid.

She was passionate about Tai cats. She bred, cared for and showed them, and found them wonderful new homes too. She also enjoyed tole painting, sewing, and spending time with family.

Alice is survived by a sister, Priscilla (Roger) Sprang of Shreve; a brother, Douglas R. (Rhonda) Billman of Burbank; two nieces; two nephews; and six great nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to your favorite charity in memory of Alice.

Dawn F. Rhein

Dawn F. Rhein, Pine Grove, Pa., passed away January 23, 2022, at home.

She was born on November 25, 1930, in Friedensburg, Pa., daughter of the late Wilson and Hattie Kramer Reber.

Dawn initially operated Meadow View Farms in Pine Grove with her husband, Emmett, and then with sons, Terry and Craig, upon his passing in 1981. The Registered Jersey farm has been in the Rhein family since 1915 and today milks about 100 cows. The family also farms 300 acres of owned and 400 acres of rented land. The herd is enrolled on REAP and has contributed to Project Equity for more than 35 years.

The Rheins hosted several sales at the farm over the years. From 1999-2000, they hosted the Summer Splash at Meadow View Sale. The past several years, they hosted the Mid-Atlantic Fall Jersey Classic. Females from the farm have also sold well at public auction, including the high seller of the 2005 National Heifer Sale, MVF Paramount Golda 1218-ET, at \$14,100. Meadow View Farm has also sent many bulls to A.I. Among these is the former #1 bull for milk, MVF Bold Venture Daniel.

After retiring, Dawn enjoyed traveling with friends. She was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Friedensburg.

In addition to her sons and daughter-in-law, Terry and Craig (Pam), she is survived by a third son, Bruce (Jessa) Rhein of Palmer, Ark.; two daughters, Paula (William) Dithrich of Meadville, and Kathie (Barry) Newswanger of Pine Grove; 12 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by brothers Carl Reber and Sterling Reber and sister Arlene Leymeister.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate contributions in her memory be made to Advantage Home Health and Hospice, 1502 Route 61 Highway S, Pottsville, PA 17901.

