

## In Memoriam

### Gregory Wayne Fowler

Gregory Wayne Fowler, Cumberland Center, Maine, 84, passed away peacefully at home on March 29, 0222, with his loving family by his side.

Greg, or "Farma" as many knew him, was born on July 5, 1937, to Irene Libby Fowler Welch in Boston, Mass., which he would later deny because he considered himself to be a true Mainer. He grew up in Kezar Falls and graduated from Fryeburg Academy in 1955. He earned an associate degree in agriculture from the University of Maine-Orono in 1957 and belonged to the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity.

He served six years in the Air Force National Guard in the 265th Radio Relay Squadron. He began dating his future wife, Kay, a fellow member of the farming community, in 1962 and wed her on June 22, 1963.

His love affair with farming and the Jersey cow sprouted at Highland Farm in Cornish, Maine, owned by his uncle, Robert Pike, and his family. He showed 4-H projects at fairs in Maine and New Hampshire and at the Eastern States Exposition and the All American Jersey Show in both Columbus, Ohio, and Louisville, Ky.

For nine years, Fowler was herdsman at Green Dream Farm in Lee, N.H., owned by lifelong friends Bud and Betsy Booth. In 1971, he purchased Spring Brook Farm, Cumberland, Maine, in partnership with Kay's father, Stanley Blanchard. He grew the herd, increased production, and developed more tillable acres for the farm. A herd favorite was Spring Brook Cocoa Lou, Very Good-85%, who produced a Hall of Fame record in the 1970s.

In the mid-1990s, Greg and Kay entered the first phase of retirement by donating and selling 75-plus acres to the town of Cumberland for community recreation and enjoyment. The farm is now leased to Jeff Storey, one of Greg's "kids," who shares his love and passion for farming.

Greg was president of the New Hampshire Jersey Cattle Club and belonged to the Maine, New England, and national clubs as well. He was active with Farm Bureau at county and state levels, sat on the board of the Cumberland Farmers Club, and chaired the board of the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District.

In addition to his wife of nearly 59 years, he is survived by son Dennis (Fatima Lima) Fowler of Mt. Vernon; daughter Stephanie (Marc) Enaire of Cumberland; brother Maylon (Meadow) Welch of Gorham; sister-in-law Elizabeth (Peter) Trouant of Meddybemps; two grandchildren; cousin

Alaire Pike Palmer of Highland Farm; several nieces and nephews; and all the "kids" who worked on the farm over the years.

Memorials are suggested to Hospice of Southern Maine, 390 US-1, Scarborough, ME 04074.

### Lavone Clay Smith

Lavone Clay Smith, Arab, Ala., 87, passed away on April 4, 2022, three weeks shy of his 88th birthday. By his side was his wife of almost 65 years, Sadenya, and daughter, Denise Vaughn.

He was born on April 24, 1934, in Arab to the late J.W. and Gladys Smith. He graduated from Arab High School and married Sadenya White on July 1, 1956. The couple moved to Fort Benning, Ga., where he served in the Army for two years.

He developed a love of agriculture early in life. He was active in 4-H and FFA. He was named Alabama Future Farmer of the Year in 1952 and earned his American Farmer Degree the next year. Smith won the state showmanship award and topped the state dairy judging contest in 1954.

After serving his country, he moved back to Arab and established Bama Jersey Farm, a Registered Jersey herd and 79 acres of land. Over the years, he grew the herd to 240 milking cows and the farm to 660 acres of owned and 330 acres of rented land. In 1977, he purchased the milking herd of Blalock and White, Murray, Ky., and moved it to the Alabama farm.

Smith used programs from the American Jersey Cattle Club (AJCC) to develop the herd and was among the first herds in the state to produce milk under the All-Jersey label. He regularly consigned animals to the All American Jersey Sale, the Kentucky National Sale and the Dixie Classic. Among the herd standouts was Empire Crusader Heidi, two-time National Grand Champion and 1979 National Jersey Jug Futurity Winner. She was appraised Excellent-97% and produced two Hall of Fame records.

Smith served as AJCC District 6 Director from 1982-1988, chairing the Registration Committee and sitting on the Information and Jersey Journal and Development Committees as well. He served on the All American Sale and All American Show Committees. He was president of the Alabama Jersey Breeders Association and Marshall County Grade A Producers Association and vice president of the Alabama Purebred Dairy Cattle Association. He sponsored the ag mechanics award presented annually at the local FFA banquet and received the FFA Honorary Chapter Farmer's Degree in 1978 and the Honorary State Farmer's Degree in 1980.

A devoted family man and true people person, Smith seldom met a stranger. He had a quick smile and genuine laugh and loved to share stories. After retiring, he enjoyed traveling in his RV, made an occasional trip to a casino and visited friends.

In addition to his wife and daughter, Smith is survived by a granddaughter.