

In Memoriam

Donald Richard Pellikan

Donald Richard Pellikan, Grafton, Ill., 96, passed away on January 30, 2021, at Calhoun Nursing and Rehab.

He was born on the family farm in Jersey County, Ill., on August 23, 1924, to the late Charles and Grace (Schlansker) Pellikan. He graduated from Jersey Township High School in 1942 and then attended the University of Illinois, where he earned a degree in agriculture.

Upon graduation, he returned to Grafton to manage the family dairy and grain farm, Woodland Acres. He married Martha Wehrly on April 5, 1958. A favorite pastime was showing Jersey cattle at the local fairs.

He was a member of the American Jersey Cattle Association and the Jersey County Farm Bureau. He sat on the town board of auditors of Otter Creek Township, and the Jersey County Fair. He was a member of Grafton United Methodist Church. For many years, he was a 4-H leader and an election judge and helped with the Otterville School Festival.

Donald enjoyed watching and listening to the Chicago Cubs play baseball. He also was an avid football and basketball fan, closely following teams for the University of Illinois and the local high school. He looked forward to the annual family reunion and visiting family.

A stranger to none and giver to all, he would often strike up a conversation by relaying a story from the past or talking about how he helped a neighbor.

Donald is survived by three children, Donald Robert (Lydia), Larry Richard (Michele) and Carolyn Martha (Ray); five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren to make an arrival this year.

He was preceded in death by a granddaughter and several aunts and cousins.

Memorials may be given to the Grafton United Methodist Church, Jersey County Fair Association or Calhoun Nursing and Rehab.

Ralph Harold Uhe

Ralph Harold Uhe, Milton, Wis., 88, passed away peacefully on February 10, 2021.

He was born on October 17, 1932, to the late Leslie and Dorothy Sutherland Uhe. His family farmed in the Richmond, Lima Center and Milton areas.

Ralph met Adele Werfal Uhe, his wife of 62 years, at school in Milton. The couple married in 1953, then moved to Chicago and Kansas while Ralph served

in the Army during the Korean Conflict.

After serving his country, the family returned to Milton, where Ralph farmed and worked as a carpenter for Tom Goodger. They moved to Fort Atkinson to farm and then back to Milton in 1972. For the next 22 years, Ralph worked full time at Spacesaver Corporation and farmed crops, milked cows and raised cattle as well. In retirement, he raised and sold Haflinger horses.

Ralph was a member of the American Jersey Cattle Association, the Wisconsin Jersey Breeders Association, the Wisconsin Holstein Association and Haflinger Owners of Wisconsin. He was an FFA alumnus and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a 73-year member of North Lima Presbyterian Church, active with the church since 1948. Ralph and Adele enjoyed many years together camping with family and friends. After Adele passed in 2015, he spent time with family and friends and at The Gathering Place in Milton. He often referred to himself as "The Stubborn Ol' German."

He is survived by six children, Ralph F. (Brenda) Uhe, Phyllis Bechtloff, Wayne (Chris) Uhe, Tammie (Curt) Wendschafer, Susan Passer, James (Lisa) Uhe; 22 beloved grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; brother, Bill (Judi) Uhe; and many cousins, nieces, nephews, and special friends.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by a brother, Norman Uhe, and five sisters, Elores Hulen, Valera Uhe, Lavona Hartman, Sharon Kitsemel and Noreen Kesterson.

Elizabeth Anne "Betsy" Czadzeck

Elizabeth Anne "Betsy" (Luchsinger) Czadzeck, Clyde, N.Y., 61, passed away on February 12, 2021, due to health complications related to the COVID-19 virus.

Daughter of the late Frederick and Elizabeth "Betty" Luchsinger, she was born on December 12, 1959, in Syracuse, N.Y. She graduated from Onondaga Central High School in 1978. She lived and worked at the family farm, Silver Spring Farm, in Syracuse, N.Y., until 1996, when she married Roger Czadzeck and moved to his home in Clyde.

Betsy managed the calf raising program at Silver Spring Farm and helped with other phases of the operation too. She was an invaluable asset because of her attention to detail and financial management skills.

She was an integral part of the family team that found success in exhibiting Jerseys at five major shows across three decades. The tanbark trail included the

New York State Fair, the Eastern States Exposition, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Show, the All American Jersey Show and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (RAWF).

Her first showing success came at the 1974 New York State Fair, where she exhibited the Grand Champion Female, Faithful Golden Kitty of SSF, a bred and owned daughter of Golden Faithful. She purchased Sleeper Karen BA Susan at the Kentucky National Sale that year from the Max Gordon family of Indiana and showed her to fifth place laurels in the two-year-old class at the All American Junior Jersey Show in 1976. Betsy took home the Grand Champion banner from the New York State Fair again in 1985 with Lily Sleeper Scarlet of SSF.

Over the years, Betsy became well known to the exhibitors and followers of these events. She earned a reputation as being a friendly, cheerful, fun-loving, hardworking, and enthusiastic competitor. She and her sister, Barb, helped to make the cattle barn a fun place to be.

In 1996, she moved her herd of about 30 head to Roger's home place in Clyde. A year later, several others joined the herd, an inheritance from her father at his passing. At Meadow Winds Farm, she continued to breed and market the same kind of genetics that captured prizes for Silver Spring Farm. Often, calves and heifers she consigned to local sales brought the top dollar. And often, young exhibitors at the New York State Fair won classes cattle carrying the Meadow Winds prefix.

Betsy leaves behind a countless number of Jersey friends from the U.S. and Canada and a legacy for being a great friend and someone who would lend a helping hand to anyone.

In addition to her husband of 25 years, Roger, she is survived by a brother, Chuck (Sue) Luchsinger, Silver Spring Farm; a stepson, Keith (Edwina) Czadzeck; a stepdaughter, Jenelle (Brian) Stubblefield; and five nieces and three nephews.

She was preceded in death by a brother, John Luchsinger, and a sister, Barb Sweetapple.

Harold B. "Tuffy" Wright

Harold Burns "Tuffy" Wright, White River Junction, Vt., 94, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, at his home on February 12, 2021.

Tuffy is a former president and director of the American Jersey Cattle Club. He received the national Jersey organization's Distinguished Service Award in 1981 and the Master Breeder Award with his late

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brothers, Edward and Donald, in 1995.

He was born on September 28, 1926, son of the late Seaver David and Helen (Gillette) Wright in Hanover, N.H., a town settled by predecessors on both sides of his family. Though he and his brothers grew up in the Great Depression, they enjoyed the simple pleasures



Tuffy Wright

that came from growing up on Maplerow Farm and living a rural life.

His first paying job as a youth was with the railroad, unloading government fertilizer from boxcars for 50 cents per ton. He graduated from Hartford High School in 1944 and then underwent military training at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas. With the victory of the Allied Forces in 1945, he was given the choice to join the Army of Occupation or return home. He chose the latter, as he was needed there.

Tuffy married the late Maxine Harford in Windsor, Vt., on June 24, 1950, and moved into his grandparents' home to start a family and farm. With the death of his father in 1956, he assumed care of the farm with his mother and brothers Edward and Donald.

Maplerow Farm was a longtime supporter of herd improvement programs, beginning with production testing in 1928 and type appraisal in 1948. The Wrights won the Constructive Breeder Award from the national Jersey Association for 20 consecutive years and sold cattle to producers in 30 states and five foreign countries over the years. The farm was known for its production-bred genetics. The most well-known female was Maplerow Mercury Aron-PTL-P, Excellent-96%, 1986 National Grand Champion and former all-time lifetime production champion. A well-known bull was Great Magic, the breed's former #1 bull for Predicted Difference Protein Dollars.

The herd was downsized in July 1994 and dispersed in April 2004. In retirement, Harold cared for his beloved oxen. Among his proudest achievements was winning best pair overall in the steer and oxen division of the 2019 Fryeburg Fair with his milking shorthorns, Jake and Gus.

Tuffy volunteered countless hours of his time to advance the Jersey breed. He was instrumental in the success the

5,000 Heifer Project in Vermont, which helped to establish National All-Jersey Inc. (NAJ), and chaired the Vermont Equity Committee, which launched Project Equity. He was chair of the long-running Vermont State Sale and traveled with California Jersey breeders across New England to source Registered Jersey genetics for their herds on the west coast. Harold also showed and judged fairs throughout Vermont, New England, Quebec, and Ontario.

He is a former president and director of the Vermont and the New England Jersey Breeders Associations. He received the Distinguished Service Award and the Good Neighbor Award from both clubs. He was a member of the Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society and proud owner of a "real" Jersey heifer from the Isle of Jersey.

Tuffy also worked off the farm as a rural route carrier for the post office. In 1958, President Eisenhower appointed him postmaster of the White River Junction facility, in charge of 14 employees. His oversight expanded over the years to include more than 200 post offices in eastern Vermont and northern New Hampshire. Thirty years to the day, he retired as postmaster, with more than 500 employees working at the White River Junction location.

He was president of the National Association of Postmasters, the White River Rotary Club and the White River Chamber of Commerce, co-founder of the Hartford Booster club and belonged to the United Brethren Lodge #21 Masons. He was a reading mentor for EverybodyWins! and an active member of the White River Junction United Methodist Church.

Tuffy was adept at combining his three loves—family, travel, and Jerseys—into many ventures. He traveled to each of the 48 contiguous states and 13 countries abroad. He attended annual meetings of the national Jersey organizations from 1972 with Maxine and their daughters, Ann and Donna, and their grandchildren. The meeting in San Diego, Calif., in 2016 required a cross-country drive. His favorite place to travel was the Isle of Jersey, where he visited the Queen's Jersey herd at Windsor Castle, attended the Royal Welsh Show and toured the beaches of Normandy. But what made these trips especially enjoyable were cups of Jersey crème in Liberation Square and supper with friends at the Pomme d'Or Hotel.

He took a great deal of pride in being an ambassador for Vermont, sitting in the bay window or rocking on the front porch and waving at passers-by. He shared Vermont goodies, like maple syrup, with friends,

acquaintances or any person who did a small act of kindness.

Though diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1992, he lived life to the fullest. Harold will be remembered for his love of family, curiosity, excellent memory, and strong work ethic. He was a lifelong learner and an avid reader, reading the Bible cover-to-cover at the age of 91 and at least two newspapers and a devotional each day. A prankster with a twinkle in his eye, he was often the first to call with birthday greetings.

In addition to his daughters, Ann Cerasoli and Donna Wright, both of White River Junction, he is survived by three other children, Gail Wright, Harold Wright Jr., and Richard Wright, all of White River Junction; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; and extended family.

He was predeceased by a son Bruce and a brother, David.

Memorials may be made to White River Junction United Methodist Church, 106 Gates St., White River Junction, VT 05001, or the Vermont Jersey Breeders Association, c/o Tom Pyle, 651 Route 22A North, Fair Haven, VT 05743. To honor his memory, share a story, call a friend, eat some ice cream or wave to a stranger.

Thomas L. Lyon

Thomas L. "Tom" Lyon, Cambridge, Wis., 80, passed away at his home on March 8, 2021, from acute myeloid leukemia and complications from treatments.

He was born on September 12, 1940, in Toledo, Iowa, son of the late Earl and Nellie Lyon. He graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in dairy science. Rather than joining his father and late brothers, Howard and Joe, in the farming partnership, Lyon Jerseys, he pursued a different career path and made his mark in the dairy cattle breeding business.

In 1967, he accepted a marketing/communications position with Midwest Breeders Cooperative in Shawano, Wis. He was promoted several times over the years and retired in 2002 as CEO of Cooperative Resources International (CRI). During his career, the regional dairy breeding cooperative merged with several others and milk testing services to become one of the largest dairy co-ops in the world.

Tom was a lifelong agriculturist whose main interest was the well-being of farmers, especially dairy farmers, and their rural communities. He was also passionate about education and worked tirelessly to provide higher education opportunities for kids from farms and rural areas. He served on the board of regents of the University

of Wisconsin System from 1986-1993 and was president from 1990-1992. Upon retirement from CRI, he consulted for the secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, advocating to protect Wisconsin working lands and advance farmland preservation.

He was proud to have received the Guest of Honor from National Dairy Shrine in 1999, be inducted into the National Cooperative Hall of Fame and the Wisconsin Business Hall of Fame and earn an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Madison in 2014.

Tom and his wife, Barbara, moved to Cambridge after his retirement, to connect with friends and become more involved with the grandchildren. Barbara, his high school sweetheart and wife of 61 years, and family meant everything to Tom. He emphasized staying in touch, getting together frequently and supporting each other in adversity. For many years, Tom and Barbara enjoyed a vacation home in Door County and golfed at Peninsula State Park. They later joined the Lake Ripley Country Club in Cambridge. They were season ticket holders for UW-Madison football and often hosted family and friends at games. The fate of college and professional Wisconsin sports teams and those at Iowa State were part of many conversations with Tom.

While life in Wisconsin provided opportunity to pursue dreams, make a comfortable living, build friendships in and out of agriculture, his heart never strayed far from home. Those who knew him well often heard Tom refer to himself as “the farm kid from Iowa.”

In addition to his wife, Barbara, he is survived by two sons, Jeff (Karen) and Scott and a daughter, (Seve) Duin; four grandchildren; a sister-in-law, Margaret (Howard) Lyon; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents and brothers, Howard and G. Joe Lyon, he was preceded in death by another brother, Durward (Carolyn) Lyon, a cousin, William (Jean) Zmolek, who lived with the family while he was growing up and whom he considered a brother, and two infant sons.

Memorials may be made to the Thomas and Barbara Lyon endowed scholarship funds at either Iowa State University or the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the scholarship fund at National Dairy Shrine, Rainbow Hospice, or a local nonprofit of choice.