

In Memoriam

Michael Eugene Smith

Michael Eugene Smith, Smyrna, Tenn., 67, passed away on October 16, 2019.

A native of Nashville, Tenn., he was born on January 30, 1952, to the late Calvin Baird and Peggy Neal Smith.

Smith raised Registered Jerseys with his family in Smyrna and exhibited cattle across the country. Among the standouts are two Excellent-94% cows: Pensmith TJ Mindy {5}, who was named National Grand Champion in 1993, and Smith Bros Sooner Debbie, who earned All American laurels in the mid-1990s for Waverly Farms of Clear Brook, Va.

He retired from the University of Tennessee Extension Service in Williamson County and the master gardener program for the county as well.

Smith is survived by a sister, Marjorie "Margie" Smith of Smyrna; brothers Charles "Charlie" (Shirley) Smith of Murfreesboro, Tenn., and Neal (Lisa) Smith of Smyrna; special friend and caregiver, Ed Stant of Smyrna; several nieces and nephews; and great-nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the Tennessee Junior Dairy Show Foundation, c/o Lynn Lee, P.O. Box 1229, Smyrna, TN 37167; Alive Hospice; or Comfort Ye Ministries, 307 E. Jefferson Pike, Murfreesboro, TN 37130.

Michael Grahame Stern

Michael "Mike" Grahame Stern, Paris, Ont., 91, passed away on November 27, 2019.

Stern was very active in the Canadian Jersey community and other agricultural programs in Brant County.

He got a start in the business in 1947 as a hired hand for a small Jersey herd in Paris after emigrating from England. He became a partner manager in 1960. Stern purchased the herd in 1968 and established Potwell Jerseys. In the early 1980s, sons Richard and Peter began farming in partnership with their father. In 2002, Peter moved with part of the herd to a nearby farm and Richard continued to manage the home farm. In April 2007, Kerry and Matt Fraser of Maker Jerseys purchased the nucleus of the Potwell herd.

Potwell Jerseys earned the Constructive Breeder Award from Jersey Canada in 2005 and the organization's Master Breeder in 2012. Among the standouts was Potwell Juno's Belle, who won three major championships in three different countries (Canada, the U.S. and Brazil) in 1995. Mike was given an honorary life

membership to Jersey Canada in 2007.

In addition to his sons, Peter (Michele) and Richard, he is survived by his wife of 61 years, Elizabeth (Berec); children Theresa (Steve) Roberts-Stern, Michael, Ed (Kim) and Brian; a brother David Stern; a sister, Liz (Dudley) Foster; 12 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Nancy Stern, and a sister Anne McClay.

Memorials may be made to Stedman Hospice, Brant County 4-H or Paris Agricultural Society.

Thomas Leslie Hunter

Thomas "Tom" Leslie Hunter of Ontario, Canada, 73, passed away on November 27, 2019.

He was born on June 18, 1946, youngest son of the late Edgar and Florence Hunter. He grew up on a dairy, poultry and crop farm located three farms from land purchased by the Hunter family in 1839 after they emigrated from Scotland. He attended school in a one-room schoolhouse in Clanbrassil. With no opportunity to farm the home ground, he pursued what would become a lifelong career in the automotive industry pumping gas and doing oil changes. He worked at Craddocks Garage in Jarvis while attending trade school and earning a mechanics license. He was a member of the team at Dennis Searles Chevy Olds in Caledonia for 20 years and then worked for Oneida Ford New Holland for another two decades.

He married the first love of his life, the late Janice Mae Cherry, in 1970, and purchased a 100-acre farm, where they raised three sons and farmed part-time. Among Tom's passions was plowing competitions, initially competing as a member of the school team and ultimately at the highest level at the annual International Plowing Match. His most proud moment was winning the contest in 1967, which earned him a trip to the World's Fair in Montreal.

He was a member of the Haldimand Plowing Association and a plowing leader for 4-H. He also belonged to the Haldimand Federation of Agriculture and the Haldimand Cattleman's Association. He volunteered with the Dunnville Fair and sat on the board of the Gore Cemetery.

Upon the passing of his first wife, Tom married Joyce Branson and experienced the world with her through excursions abroad and locally.

In addition to his wife, Joyce, he is survived by sons Brian (Jodi) Hunter, Neil (Melanie) Hunter of Hometown Jerseys,

Bath, Ont., and Mark Hunter; two brothers, David and Clayton (Brigitte) Hunter; two grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Memorials may be made to Oneida United Church or Gore Cemetery.