

In Memoriam

John David Sipe

John David Sipe, Monroe, Ind., 70, passed away at his home on October 21, 2021.

He was born on June 1, 1951, in Decatur, Ind., and graduated from Adams Central High School in 1969. He married Jill Sue Sipe in 1980.

John was a lifetime dairy farmer who spent several decades showing dairy cows at the Indiana State Fair, where he received Premier Showman and several other awards. He dreamed of breeding, owning, and showing a National Jersey Jug Futurity Winner. In 2021, he was on his way to fulfilling that dream as Blue Creek Premier My Veronica-P was entered in the futurity. Though he passed before the show, he watched from above as his family exhibited her to 18th place in the most prestigious class of three-year-old Jerseys.

Along with John's love of dairy cattle, he was active in community. He owned and operated John Sipe Trucking, served on the Blue Creek Township Advisory Board, and was a member of the U.S.A.T.F. Master's Pole Vaulting and High Jump which is for athletes 35 and older.

John coached girls softball, basketball, volleyball, and track at Adams Central School and served 24 years on the school board as well. He not only enjoyed coaching youth, but also loved to watch sports, especially Komets Hockey and the Chicago Cubs.

Throughout his life he followed the Lord. He was a member of the Grace Bible Church in Berne. He had a servant's heart, never met a stranger, and remained a prayer warrior for others. John also found pride and joy in founding Sipe Family Singers and singing bass for the southern gospel groups Work In Progress and Faithful Sons.

In addition to his wife, Jill, he is survived by five daughters Rebekah (Rod) Price, Van Wert, Ohio, Katie (Brian) Wiederholt, Fort Wayne, Ind., Jessica (Neil) Henning, Cedarville, Ohio, Elizabeth (Kevin) Vigneault, Delafield, Wis., and Sarah Sipe, Durham, N.C.; brothers Donald (Coretta) Sipe, Berne, Ind., and Carl (Linda) Sipe, Medina, Minn.; sister Marilyn Crane, Decatur, Ind.; and 10 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, George W. Sipe, and mother, Esther E. (Felty) Sipe.

Memorials may be addressed to the John Sipe Scholarship Fund, 3292 E. 350 St., Monroe, IN. 46772.

Charles "Bo" Richard Ervin

Charles "Bo" Richard Ervin, Wartrace,

Tenn., 76, passed away November 25, 2021.

He was born March 31, 1945, in Shelbyville, Tenn., to Volney Ray and Lois Kimmons Ervin.

Bo was a cattle farmer who was in the industry for most of his life. Bo and his wife, Gay, took jobs off the farm to support a family tradition that started in 1995: showing Jersey cattle. With their grandchildren, they were able to keep the Jersey tradition alive exhibiting cattle across the nation. They have exhibited Grand Champions, best bred and owned winners, and protein and production winners.

The family competed in the All American Jersey Show and won their first blue ribbons at the national show in 2011, earning two blue ribbons in the junior show and three in the open show. Among the first prizes in the open show was Junior Best Three Females.

Aside from the dairy business, Bo was a row cropper and salesman for agriculture farm chemicals. He also attended the First Christian Church.

In addition to his wife, Gay Swing Ervin, he is survived by children Amy (Jay) Massey, Doug (Joanne) Ervin, and Theresa Ervin, all from Wartrace; sister Shirley Ervin (David) Smotherman; and his four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and his four-legged friend, Ace.

Memorials may be made to the Bedford County Cancer Foundation, P.O. Box 1523, Shelbyville, TN 37162-1523.

Jerry Lee Graves

Jerry Lee Graves, Dundas, Ill., 76, passed away on November 19, 2021, at the Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Evansville, Ind., following an extended illness.

Jerry was born March 27, 1945, in Olney, Ill., to Melvin and Mabel Graves. He attended school in Dundas and graduated from East Richland High School in 1963.

Jerry was a third-generation dairy farmer and dedicated his life to developing superior genetics in the Jersey cattle breed at Clover Farms Dairy. He and his twin brother, Jimmy, along with the younger brother, Tony, and nephews, Ryan and Walter, ran the farm. Usually, you would see Jerry with his "sidekick", brother Jimmy, conducting farming operations throughout the county.

Throughout his life he also served in the Illinois National Guard, was a member of Richland County farm Bureau, and a member of the American Jersey Cattle Association.

Clover Farms Dairy is enrolled on REAP. Many members of the herd rank for genetic merit and production.

In addition to his brothers Jimmy (Jayne)

and Tony (Chris), Jerry is survived by his wife Pat; daughter Pam (Jim) Brinkley; four grandchildren; a sister Marcia (Ray) Vaughn; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and an infant brother, Monty.

Memorials can be made to Claws and Paws.

Duane "Wick" Norman Wickstrom

Duane "Wick" Norman Wickstrom, Hilmar, Calif., 87, passed away at Doctors Medical Center surrounded by his immediate family on December 5, 2021.

Duane was born into a life filled with cows, world travel, sports, and a passion for his community, his family, and his friends on April 14, 1934. He grew up on a Jersey dairy farm where his love for the industry began. He graduated from California Polytechnic State University with a degree in dairy science.

Throughout his college career, Duane played both football and baseball which led to a career of almost 80 years as a sportsman. He played senior softball until he was 80 years old and finally retired his glove just seven years ago.

His love of Jersey cattle led him to be active in the industry. In 1979, Duane became a founding member of Jerseyland Sires.

He was honored as Master Breeder of the American Cattle Jersey Association in 2002. He also was a Director of the American Jersey Cattle Association, serving two terms from 1984-1990, where he encouraged development of services that would appeal to and be beneficial for larger commercial herds. He also was vice president of the board in 1989-1990. His two sons followed in his footsteps and served on the Board of Directors. His grandson is the current chair of the AJCA Type Advisory Committee.

Jerseys have been the center of Duane's life. He started his own dairy in 1968 with 160 cows with steady growth and wanted to expand into the thousands. In a span of three years, 1989-1991 the herd grew from 700 to over 1,000 cows. The expansion was made possible with good calf management, low culling rates, and the purchase of several smaller herds and heifers from New England.

He also received the Senior Breeder Award from both Central Valley Jersey Breeders and California State Jersey Association.

In 2016, the highest seller at the National Heifer Sale came from Wickstrom Jersey Farms Inc., purchased by Sexing Technologies, Navasota, Texas, for \$15,700.

When not around the cows he was heavily involved in the community serving on

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many state and national boards, assisted with community building projects, served as a member of the Merced County Volunteer Fire Department and as president of the Turlock Sunrise Rotary Club. Duane was named Hilmar Citizen of the Year in 1999.

Duane and his wife spent much of their adult life traveling around the world which began with Duane's council member position on the World Jersey Cattle Bureau. The two visited Jersey herds and made friends throughout the world. Duane's favorite destination was Australia, but the home farm was always number one.

Duane is survived by his spouse of 66 years, Pat Wickstrom; three children and their spouses, Scott (Vicki) Wickstrom, Susan Vierra, and Michael (Margaret) Wickstrom; three siblings, Vernon (Mary) Wickstrom, Valerie (Don) Sorenson, and Dale (Marta) Wickstrom; seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Oliver and Vera Wickstrom, and sisters Eunice (Bill) Pace and Marlys Wickstrom.

Memorials can be made to Cal Poly Animal Science Department, Animal Science Department, Care of: Nicole Einfalt, 1 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0255.

William D. Rankin

William Dickason Rankin, Faunsdale, Ala., 85, passed away on December 17, 2021, at his residence.

He was born in Alfalfa, Ala., on January 18, 1935, to the late Amzi Godden and Susetta Lipsey Legg Rankin. His formative years were also heavily influenced by Bill Mack Johnson. He grew up on the well-known Registered Jersey farm, Cedarcrest, where he spent his entire life working with his family.

William graduated from Marengo County High School in Thomaston and then earned a degree in agronomy and soils from Auburn University. A gifted wrestler and coach, he was the undefeated heavyweight champion his senior year of college and later inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. He also coached the wrestling team at Marengo Academy, leading the team to two state championships and describing the time with his players as the best 10 years of his life.

He was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity and commissioned into the army through Reserve Officers' Training Corps as a second lieutenant.

William returned to Cedarcrest after serving his country and joined the part-

nership of A.G. Rankin and Sons in 1946 with his late brothers, Amzi Jr., John and Joe. Breeding with the slogan, "Registered Jerseys of the Finest Kind," the Rankins developed genetics found in herds across the globe. They showed Cedarcrest Jerseys on national show circuits in the U.S. and Canada and bred bulls and cows that helped to shape the Jersey breed. The Rankins received the Master Breeder award from the American Jersey Cattle Club in 1980.

William had a lifelong love not just for cattle, but for the Cedarcrest land. He worked to improve the soil and earned several honors for his work in conservation. He was a member of the American Jersey Cattle Club, sat on the board of Black Warrior Electric Membership Corporation in Demopolis, and was an elder for Faunsdale Presbyterian Church. His faith was as strong as his love of family.

William cooked breakfast each morning for himself and any guests to his home and was famous for his "Pop Eggs" and Christmas peanut brittle. He was a generous giver and believed in the benefits of hard work and trials for building character. He loved telling stories and was known for his quick wit, and simple, wise sayings.

He is survived by five daughters, Elizabeth Rankin (Curtis) Allen, Margaret Rankin (Bobby) Byrd, and Coleman Rankin (Kurt) Krusmark, all of Faunsdale, Rebecca Rankin (Oie) Osterkamp of Raleigh, N.C., and Annie Coleman Rankin (Brycen) Williams of Auburn, Ala.; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents and brothers, he was preceded in death by his wife of 40 years, Lucile Lucas Coleman Rankin, a sister, Rebecca Rankin Sterling, and a grandson.

Memorials are suggested to Palmer Home for Children, P.O. Box 746, Columbus, MS 39703, palmerhome.org.

