



Dr. Chester "Chet" Frank Palmer

March 26, 1939 - February 24, 2022

Dr. Chester "Chet" Frank Palmer

Died: Feb 24, 2022, peacefully at home in Clemson, SC

Born: Mar 26, 1939 in Joliet, IL, to Marion Brown Palmer and Ardeth Mae (Pemble) Palmer

Chet attended the elementary one room Offerman School in Joilet Twp/Will County IL, graduated from Joliet Twp H.S. in 1957, and attended Joliet Junior College for 3 yrs. After receiving the degree of DVM in 1964 from the University of Illinois, College of Veterinary Medicine, he established and maintained a mixed animal practice in Malta IL for 35 years.

As a teenager he was active in 4-H and in his youth group at Willow Ave Presbyterian Church where he also sang in the choir. In high school he sang baritone with the Madrigal group and A Cappella Choir. After establishing his home and business in DeKalb County (IL), he served 3 terms as ruling elder at Westminster Presbyterian Church, and was active for 47 years as a member of the Malta Lions Club where he held various offices. He also served his profession on both the Northern Illinois Veterinary and Illinois State Veterinary boards. He was elected and served 16 years on the Malta Twp School Board, 8 years as president. For 27 years he was on the Resource Bank board of directors, and for a time represented Malta Twp on the board of

the DeKalb County Community Foundation.

Married in 1963, he is survived by his wife, Janet Sifferd Palmer; children, Paige Lott of Gilbert AZ, Elise (Guido) Schnabel of Clemson SC, and Fred (Kristin) Palmer of Grand Prairie TX; grandchildren, Austin (Rebeka) Buehler, Dylan Buehler, Nolen and Anna Schnabel; great-grandchildren, Ashton and Henry Buehler; brother Kenneth (Mary) Palmer of East Peoria IL and sister, Sandra (James) Alaimo of Joliet IL, as well as several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and an infant sister.

Known by his friends for his love of singing and fishing and his ability to write verse, he will be remembered as an easy-going, even-tempered, hard worker with a generous spirit. Memorial gifts to the Parkinson's Foundation or American Cancer Society would be appreciated.

Two separate memorial services will be held to honor the life of Dr. Palmer. The first memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2022 at 2:00 PM in the chapel of Seneca Presbyterian Church, 115 W. South 1st St, Seneca, SC 29678. The second memorial service will be held on Sunday, April 10, 2022 at 2:00 PM in the chapel of Westminster Presbyterian Church, 830 N Annie Glidden Rd, DeKalb, IL 60115.

Mountain View Funerals and Cremations – Pickens Chapel is serving the Palmer family.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR **26**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Seneca Presbyterian Church
115 W. South 1st St
Seneca, SC 29678

Memorial Service

APR **10**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
830 N Annie Glidden Rd
DeKalb, IL 60115

Tribute Wall

EL

“ My wife, Ann, and I first enjoyed Chet’s friendship in Urbana-Champaign, on the University of Illinois campus. Chet was a ROOJAH (Royal Order of Janitors and Hosts), a men’s co-op in the basement of McKinley Presbyterian Foundation, where I was the graduate student counselor. Chet, already working toward his veterinary medical degree, was far more mature than the dozen or more undergraduate ROOJAHs and became my confidant in shepherding the flock. Chet’s rich baritone voice had already become an anchor of the church choir, and his dry humor soon became apparent and has entertained us through the years. When he was ill for a short time, he told everyone he had hog cholera. We both married, and later, Jan and he had us to their apartment for dinner. Jan was pregnant, and Chet had us both in stitches quoting the gestation periods of everything from rabbits to elephants from a textbook and relating them to her situation. (She took it as good fun.)

Chet obtained his DVM and I my Ph.D. in 1964. We didn’t see the Palmers during the following years we lived on the East Coast. In 1968, we returned to Illinois, and decades of visits between Evanston and Malta ensued. Chet’s story-telling talents came to the fore. Our children loved those visits when Dr. Palmer would relate stories of his clients—a midwestern version of James Herriot’s *All Creatures Great and Small*. Big Ethel, a boa constrictor, was their favorite. Through email correspondence following the Palmers’ retirement to South Carolina I learned that Chet was also a talented and prolific poet—but quite modest. It was only with my insistence that he sent a book of his verse. In so many ways, Chet will be missed by those of us who had the good fortune to know him.

Elmer Lewis - March 21, 2022 at 04:38 PM

CG

“ My husband and I came to know Chet and Jan when they moved on our Keowee Key street. We could always tell where Chet was if his fishing boat wasn't parked by the house! (I think Jan was the lucky one to receive his fish count and then to enjoy them on the dinner plate!). Being a retired vet, there were some funny stories shared if you were able to stop for a visit. He loved our daughters big Great Danes and they loved his gentle touch. Needless to say, the neighbors on our street couldn't have been more surprised when he first shared some poetry he had written. Our own Poet Laureate right in the neighborhood! Nothing seemed to make Chet think he couldn't do it! Such a determined spirit and wanting the most out of each day. It has been our pleasure to know him. Bob and Carolyn Grulich

carolyn Grulich - March 05, 2022 at 01:06 PM

NC

“ I grew up with both Chet and Jan so his passing brings special memories. My father and his mother went to school together. Both Chet's Mom , Jan' s Mom and my Mom were church friends. It seems I have always known both Chet and Jan from school, church and growing up. He was a very special friend who shared stories of growing up in poetry and prose. He was dedicated to his family, friends, his church, the community and his veterinary practice. He loved to sing and was always in his church choir. In high school he had a lead in "Oklahoma" which led to much group singing in his car when he drove us around after youth group. Many girls had crushes on Chet but he was smart enough to choose Jan.. May Chet rest in peace and may Jan and the family find peace and comfort in their memories.
Norallyn Canfield

Norallyn Canfield - February 28, 2022 at 03:52 PM