



## James Charles Donham

June 20, 1926 - June 20, 2021

James C Donham passed away peacefully at his home in Worthington, Ohio on June 20, 2021, his 95th birthday.

Jim was born June 20, 1926 in Corvallis, Oregon to Charles and Margaret Donham. During his childhood the family also lived in St Paul MN and Grandview OH. After settling in West Lafayette IN, Jim enlisted in the US Navy while a senior at West Lafayette High School. He served from Dec 1943-May 1946, and worked as a machinist's mate on a destroyer in the North Atlantic.

Following undergraduate study at Purdue University, Jim earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Ohio State University. After private practice in Garrett IN, he started his teaching career at the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine in 1954. Specializing in large animal ambulatory care, and later equine medicine, he retired as professor emeritus in 1989.

Jim met Joann M Mercer while studying at Purdue. They married on June 15, 1952 in Jo's hometown, Tiffin OH. They recently celebrated their 69th anniversary.

Jim and Jo have been active members of the Worthington United Methodist Church since moving to Worthington Hills in 1967. Jim's memberships include

the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Jim was preceded in death by his sister Marnie Jamison.

Left behind to cherish his memory are his wife Jo; children Lynn (Tom) Hammer, Janet, Mike (Jan), and Ken Donham; grandchildren Alyssa White, Katherine Bedaywi, Michaela Hammer, Kelsey and Caleb Foss, Brandon Lafferty, and Brooke Mershon; and great-grandchildren Autumn and Jake Lafferty, Eva, Liv and Ezra White, Cole and Travis Mershon, and Aaliyah and Abel Bedaywi.

Woodworking in his basement shop provided Jim with many years of joy, as well as blessing countless relatives, friends and organizations with the fruit of his labor.

From childhood to present, Jim was drawn every summer to his beloved fishing spot of Lake Kabetogama in Northern Minnesota, where he found peace and contentment with family and friends.

His family is grateful for the kindness and support of wonderful neighbors, and the care of Mt Carmel Hospice.

Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice.

Family will receive friends on Friday, July 23 from 5-7pm at Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home, 515 High St. Worthington, Ohio. Graveside Service at Walnut Grove cemetery on Saturday July 24 at 10am.

# Cemetery Details

## Walnut Grove Cemetery

5561 Milton Ave.  
Worthington, OH 43085  
(614) 885-5033

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 23. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home  
515 High Street  
Worthington, OH 43085  
(614) 885-4006  
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

## Graveside Service

JUL 24. 10:00 AM (ET)

Walnut Grove Cemetery  
5561 Milton Ave.  
Worthington, OH 43085  
(614) 885-5033

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rutherford Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of James Charles Donham*



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**Rutherford Funeral Homes** - July 22, 2021 at 05:57 PM



“ *James Charles Donham*

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January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *My deepest sympathies to Dr. Donham's family. Dr. Donham was one of the best teachers and clinicians when I was a junior & senior student at the Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine. In addition to the animal medicine and skills, he taught us so much about the "human side" of veterinary medicine ... kindness, empathy, and enjoyment !!*

*May God comfort you, his family, in the weeks and months to come and may you cherish all the great memories, as I do.*

*Respectfully,*

*Ron Warner, DVM (OSU CVM, 1971)  
Shallowater, TX*

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**Ronald d. Warner, DVM, PhD** - July 26, 2021 at 12:26 PM

PD

“*Dr. Donham was easily my favorite professor. He clearly loved his profession and cared for those of us who were about to enter veterinary practice. I remember his easy sense of humor and his stories about methods to handle difficult cases in real life practice. My fondest memory however is a personal one. As seniors we had to present a case before faculty and students. When my turn arrived I was really nervous. The clinician I was assigned to refused to take me out that day because he didn't want to "waste" time to bring me back for my presentation. Dr. Donham took me with him to bleed boars at a test station. I didn't smell very good and don't remember how my talk went but to this day I am thankful for the faculty member who cared enough to relieve my anxiety on a difficult day.*

*Paul H. Coe DVM, MPVM*  
*OSU 73*

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**Paul H. Coe DVM** - July 23, 2021 at 12:52 PM

JM

“ I loved Doc Donham. What a wonderful, kind person he was. He was my veterinarian for my horse and my mentor. I was blessed to have spent 2 summers riding around with him in his ambulatory car while I was in middle school. No air conditioning running on those hot summer days because he didn't like getting in and out of the temperature difference, and always wearing his raspberry beret. We'd eat lunch at Tullers off Sawmill nearly every day. I learned so much watching him, and he even let me do a few injections on the university horses. He was my champion to get into veterinary school. After I was admitted, he would drop off notes from CE classes in my school mailbox, and even an occasional veterinary tool he thought I might be able to use.



*I owe a lot of who I have become to this beautiful man. Sincere condolences to his family and friends. God bless him and his family.*

*Jennifer Martin, DVM Class of 2000*

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**Jennifer Martin** - July 22, 2021 at 08:15 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James Charles Donham.



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July 22, 2021 at 04:16 PM

SD

“ *My deepest condolences on the passing of Dr. Dunham. Dr. Dunham was a much appreciated veterinarian and professor. He was committed not only to his patients but also the mentoring and education of his students. I reflect back on those times with tremendous gratitude and wonderful memories.*

*Dr. Sheila Mansfield. OSU '78*

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**Sheila Mansfield, DVM** - July 21, 2021 at 01:46 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of James Charles Donham.*



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July 06, 2021 at 09:18 AM

BW

“ *A great mentor. Wealth of knowledge and a kinder person could not be found. What an honor it was for me to start my career under his tutelage. All my prayers and thanks.*

*Bimbo Welker intern 1980-81.*

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**Bimbo Welker** - July 05, 2021 at 10:26 PM

RC

“ *Dr. Donam was my favorite instructor in veterinary school and was saddened to hear of his passing. My condolences to the family and to the veterinary community in general for we lost one of the best ones. Rest in peace Dr.. Donham and God bless you... Ron Chatfield class of 66.*

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**Ron Chatfield** - July 03, 2021 at 10:06 AM

SL

“ I loved Dr. Donham. He taught me as a student and served as a trusted resource when I worked in the ambulatory clinic. In addition to teaching excellent clinical skills, he demonstrated kindness and compassion with patients and owners. He also taught important lessons about doing things right- he said it was important to back into the drive when you parked, and to check all around the vehicle before you left so there was no chance you could back over someone's child or pet when you left. My condolences to his family and friends. Susan Lance, DVM (1986), PhD

Susan Lance - July 02, 2021 at 08:23 PM

SF

“ Sherry Fresh purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Charles Donham.



Sherry Fresh - July 01, 2021 at 12:14 PM

SF

“ Sherry Frisch lit a candle in memory of James Charles Donham



Sherry Frisch - July 01, 2021 at 11:18 AM

SF

“ I am so sad to hear of "Gramps" passing. I say that with the deepest affection. When he 1st. became a grandpa, his smile got even bigger, his "Gramps".

Sherry Frisch - July 01, 2021 at 11:15 AM

SF

*thus "Gramps"*

Sherry Frisch - July 01, 2021 at 11:19 AM

MM

“ Dr. Donham was one of the greatest human beings I have ever had the pleasure and honor knowing. A true gentleman and kind hearted person, who would always take the time to inquire how a person was doing. You will be truly missed. Michele Morscher

MICHELE MORSCHER - July 01, 2021 at 10:24 AM

DN

“ Dr. Donham was an exceptional clinician, teacher, friend and outstanding professional colleague. If an "All Star" membership existed in Veterinary Medicine, he would for sure be a charter member. He will be remembered as a "Champion" in our profession and I will always cherish the times I had the opportunity to communicate with him.  
Dr. Charlie Neer

Dr. Charlie Neer - June 27, 2021 at 07:18 PM

JK

“ Dr. Donham was my favorite vet back in the 60's. I ran a small horse boarding stable between Dublin and Linworth, so when he arrived with his car full of senior vet students, you knew everything was under control. He had a calming voice and manner which always deserved respect from me and those seniors. I am so sorry for your loss. I have often remembered him in recent years as I am still a horse owner and need assistance from time to time. He deserved a peaceful passing.

Jane Kunkler - June 27, 2021 at 10:25 AM

ED

“ *Dr. Donham was one of the nicest clinicians I have memories of from my college years at the OSU Veterinary School.*

*I will never forget while, one day on a farm call, Dr. Donham and I banded some male lambs. We had a ball chasing the rascals all over the stall. Jim was on the ground rolling around, just like I was, trying to grab the lambs back legs so we could band them. I remember Jim looking at me and laughing, as if to say is this for real?*

*RIP Dr. Donham(Earl Kittle, OSU 1971)*

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**Earl Kittle, D.V.M.** - June 26, 2021 at 12:27 PM

EM

“ *I remember many years ago that one Mother's Day, Bev Wright and I were out working in the yard. Our husband's worked on Sundays. Jim turned the car from Clubview to Beechlake and stopped and said, "You girls shouldn't be out working on Mother's Day!" He was a member of WUMC and so have I been for 43 years. I never saw him ever when he didn't have a pleasant look on his face and a pleasant greeting. This very nice picture is a perfect representation of how I will remember him--one very fine man.*

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**Eleanor Meekins** - June 25, 2021 at 11:17 PM