



## Norman M. Spain

November 19, 2009

Norman M. Spain, age 95, died after a brief illness on November 19th, 2009. He was born in Columbus, Ohio, to Howard B. and Oco J. Spain. He attended Clinton, Crestview and North High schools prior to entering The Ohio State University where he graduated in 1936 with a BSc in Business Administration. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity, serving as chapter President as well as District Archon. He played in both the Concert and Marching bands, was Secretary of Fraternity Affairs, a member of Ohio Staters, Inc., and was the recipient of numerous honors including membership in all three of the men's class honorary societies (Romophos, Bucket and Dipper and Sphinx). He met his future wife, Ruth A. Polley, while they both attended North High School. They were married in 1937. They had and are survived by two sons, David H. (Jannie) Spain and William J. (Nancy) Spain, five grandchildren: Brian Spain, Sheryl (Chris) Carlin, Andrew (Jen) Spain, Ryan (Margaret) Spain and Rachel Spain, and six great-grandchildren: Sonja, Chiara, Clara, Oliver, Feisal and Mika. Theirs was a happy and loving relationship that lasted nearly 68 years and included, after retirement, a considerable amount of very enjoyable worldwide travel, including visits to at least 35 countries, two of them for periods of several months as a volunteer consultant for International Executive Service Corps. After brief work experiences in Columbus at a bank and in an ice cream plant, Norm and Ruth moved to Canal Winchester where he managed a small vegetable processing facility. After about 15 years, Norm then joined The Heekin Can Company where he was a highly respected sales

and marketing representative until his retirement in 1976. He served two terms as President of the (then) Ohio Cannery Association, a term as a Director of the (then) National Cannery Association and was a Professional Member of the Institute of Food Technologists for which he served as Chairman of its Ohio Valley Section. In recognition of his many years of outstanding service to the food industry, he was made an honorary member of Phi Tau Sigma, the food sciences honorary society. After retirement, Norm devoted much time and energy to various community and charitable pursuits, including serving United Way for many years in various capacities, helping to raise funds for the Columbus Symphony, and serving as President of the Old North Hi Club. For several years, he was an active member of the Columbus Clean Community Advisory Council. He was an elder and trustee of Overbrook Presbyterian Church, sang in their choir for 40 years, headed the church's stewardship committee for a decade and, in 1995, received a Living Faith award from the Metropolitan Area Church Council. A favorite community activity for both Norm and his wife Ruth was The Thurber House, the restored boyhood home of Columbus author, humorist and cartoonist James Thurber. Norm was part of a small committee that developed plans for restoring the house itself and helped to launch its many programs and activities. He was a member of the Board of Trustees from its inception until achieving Emeritus status a few years ago. Both he and Ruth were tour guides for many years and seldom missed a Thurber House event. Norm and the family express sincere appreciation to the staff and residents of The Forum at Knightsbridge for the pleasant living experience and excellent care provided during the years they spent there. Those who wish may make memorial contributions to Overbrook Presbyterian Church, to Thurber House or to a charity of their choice. A memorial service will be held 10:30 AM on Saturday, December 5, 2009 at Overbrook Presbyterian Church, 4131 N. High Street, 43214. A pre-service reception at the church is scheduled for 9:00 AM. Family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. on Friday December 4th at RUTHERFORD-CORBIN FUNERAL HOME, 515 High Street, Worthington. Condolences to [www.rutherford.com](http://www.rutherford.com)

[ordfuneralhome.com](http://ordfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Norman M. Spain*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *May our dear Brother rest in eternal peace. Sincerely, Gordon Gough...*

**Gordon M. Gough** - December 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *The gentlemen of Phi Kappa Psi Ohio Mu are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of a cherished brother. Brother Spain will be deeply missed by all. We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of this great man.*

**Kevin Heitz** - November 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *On behalf of the staff and board, past and present, of Thurber House, we mourn the passing of our beloved friend. He was so dear to us, and will be remembered always for his many kindnesses to Thurber House. In his name and in his honor, we are establishing the Norm Spain Fund which will help provide scholarships for young people to our children's programs as well as give support to our volunteer Tour Guides, of which he was a long-standing member. Norm will always be a part of Thurber House.*

**Susanne Jaffe** - November 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ I want to offer my condolences to the family. I remember Mr. and Mrs. Spain when they lived in Canal Winchester. David was in school with me and I vividly remember Mrs. Spain playing the harp for a school program - I was in awe.

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**Lois Stebleton Doxey** - November 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ We send our deepest sympathy to Dave & Bill & their families. Norm was Mr. Phi Psi ro us & to many generations of young men (& their families). We have so many fond memories of happy times spent with Ruth & Norm - laughing, enjoying dessert, playing tourist. What fun! What kind, gentle, caring, witty friends they were - they will be sorely missed by us & by so very many others.

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**Sam & Molly Rife** - November 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ My family offers it's deepest condolences on the loss of Norm. He was serving on the Phi Kappa Psi House Corporation when I met him back in the 80's and I found him to be the epitomy of a gentleman and I have always tried to emulate him. Later, I had the pleasure of serving on that board with him and his keen insights were always appreciated and when Norm spoke, everyone gave pause to listen to his wisdom. In person and in his annual holiday letter, he always spoke fondly of his family. He also always added a short personalized note at the end of each letter which my wife found endearing. His passing is a great loss to the community and I shed a tear while I write this, but also have to smile when I think back of all the wonderful memories I have of him.

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**David Nadolny** - November 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ My sincere condolences on your loss. I am reminded of the words in the Bible at Psalm 90:10 “In themselves the days of our years are seventy years; And if because of special mightiness they are eighty years, Yet their insistence is on trouble and hurtful things; For it must quickly pass by, and away we fly.” Mr Spain must have truly been a very special person. Our thoughts are with you at this time of your loss of your dear loved one. It seems so unfair that death should have the power to take away someone you love. And cause such pain that can be most difficult to bear. The Bible Can Bring Comfort when we lose a loved one. While you are grieving, maybe some of these scriptures will comfort you. 2 Corinthians 1:3, 4. Acts 17:31. Psalm 119:50, 52, 76. “The hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who did good things to a resurrection of life.”—John 5:28, 29. The Bible holds out a truly comforting hope, the promise of life under very different conditions, under peaceful, righteous conditions. And at that time humans will have the prospect of enjoying perfect health, and they will never have to die again. The Wiley family sends our sincere condolences on your loss. C. Wiley

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**charles wiley** - November 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ This morning I was deeply saddened to read of Norm's passing. My deceased husband, Ohio State University Professor Jean R. Geisman, was a good friend and colleague when Norm was at Heekin Can. Their paths crossed often in the Ohio Canners' Assoc. and food science programs. I grew to know Ruth and Norm at professional meetings, that I attended with my husband over the many years. They touched my life and I share in your loss. Sincerely yours, Blanche E. Geisman 4117 Fairfax Drive Columbus, OH 43220

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**Blanche E. Geisman** - November 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM