



James Stephen Brinks

January 2, 1934 - June 11, 2015

James Stephen Brinks, 81, of LaPorte, died Thursday, June 11, 2015 at home, due to complications of Alzheimers Disease.

Dr. Brinks was born in South Haven, Michigan, January 2, 1934 to Jacob E and Evelyn Kahne Brinks. The middle of five children, he was raised in a religious Lutheran home.

The family moved to Plymouth, Michigan, when he was 4 years old. He attended a one-room school house from kindergarten through fifth grade, when the school district was consolidated. He graduated from Plymouth High School in 1952, from Michigan State University with a B.S. degree in 1956, and with an M.S. degree in 1957. His Michigan State education was largely paid for by 4-H Scholarships earned for livestock judging. He belonged to the agriculture fraternity, Alpha Gamma Rho.

He received his PhD in animal breeding and genetics from Iowa State University in 1960. His first job was in Denver, with the USDA ARS from 1960 through 1967, where he was investigations leader for beef cattle breeding research for the land grant colleges in the 12 western states.

He joined the animal sciences faculty at CSU in 1967 and continued there until his retirement as professor in 1992. He was major advisor for 76 Masters and PhD degrees, and made important contributions to the beef cattle industry. He

received many awards including the J.R. Prentice Memorial Award in Animal Breeding and Genetics from the American Society of Animal Science, the Jack E. Cermak Advising Award, and the Oliver P. Pennock Distinguished Service Award. He was author or co-author of over 200 publications dealing with beef cattle genetics and was often invited to speak at beef cattle meetings throughout the United States, Australia, Spain, Brazil, and Argentina. His work and writings are well respected by academics and industry professionals alike.

He served for many years on the Larimer County planning commission, and on the board of directors of the Pleasant Valley and Lake Canal, and of the Larimer County Farm Bureau.

In 1955 Jim married Sharon Lee Muir in Saline, Michigan. After giving birth to a son and adopting a daughter, she died of leukemia in 1968. He married Rose Stehno Dean in 1969 in the newly built Blessed John XXIII campus church. They lived on Sheely Drive in Fort Collins until moving for a one-year sabbatical in Maryland, and then permanently to their Laporte farm.

During this period he built a cabin on Howelsen Hill in Steamboat Springs which the family enjoyed for 30 years.

Jim is survived by his wife, Rose, his sons Kevin (Kati) Brinks of Centennial, Dr. Alan (Kathleen) Dean of Fort Collins, Rex Dean of Waltham, MA, Dr. Andrew Dean (Dr. Marta) of LaPorte, twins John Brinks of Fort Worth, Texas; and Jim Brinks of LaPorte; his daughters, Karen Wetzberger of Loveland, Dr. Laura Pritchett (Dr. James) of Bellvue, CO. and Mary Dean of Fort Collins; his siblings Donald Brinks of Pagosa Springs, Dave Brinks of Flint, Michigan., and Susan Shade of Fort Collins; 18 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Jim was also preceded in death by his parents and his brother Kenneth

Brinks.

Until triple bypass surgery in 2003, Jim loved smoking his corncob pipe, bowling, hunting, fishing, golf , skiing, playing poker, travelling and raising cattle. In the 1980s and 1990s, he developed a Composite breed cow herd which graced his historic farm along the Poudre River in Laporte. He was unquestionably a workoholic and both he and his family learned to build fence, ditch irrigate, buck hay, brand cattle, pull calves, garden and can and all the rest that goes with farm life.

In 1993 the Provost and Claymore (aka Lessert) descendants of the original owners of his farm had a reunion in Laporte and took Jim into the Lakota Oglala Sioux tribe with the name: Down to Earth Man. Jim will be laid to rest in Grandview next to the grave of John Provost, the first owner of the farm.

The last 12 years of his life were clouded with Alzheimers which he faced with reality and grace. He never lost his innate kindness or his gentleman's dignity nor his desire every day to get up and go someplace.

A Funeral Mass concelebrated by the Reverends Steven Voss and Greg Ames will be held Monday, June 15 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Fort Collins, CO. Interment will follow at Grandview Cemetery. A reception will be held in Meredith Hall following the Interment. .

Friends may send condolences to the family at bohlenderfuneralchapel.com. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Abbey of St. Walburga, to St. Joseph's parish, or to a charity of choice.

Cemetery Details

Grandview Cemetery

1900 W. Mountain Ave.
Ft. Collins, CO 80521

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **14**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (MT)

Bohlender Funeral Chapel
121 W. Olive Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524
(970) 482-4244
<https://www.bohlenderfuneralchapel.com/>

Funeral Mass

JUN **15**. 2:00 PM (MT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
300 W. Mountain Ave. Fort Collins, CO 80521
Fort Collins, CO 80521

Tribute Wall

TR

“ Tina Russell sent a virtual gift in memory of James Stephen Brinks



Tina Russell - November 10, 2021 at 12:19 PM

MS

“ It has been a few months since James left this world. He was someone I normally saw about once a year since he became my sister's father-in-law, yet his presence in the family and his community permeated my awareness whenever my mind or my feet took me in that direction, and today, for some reason, he came to mind and I looked at these photos and tributes and missed him. And realized I always will. How much more profound and encompassing the feelings of loss must be for those who were in his life more often than I. I am thinking of you all and praying for the healing aspects of grieving to increase over time and the painful parts to increasingly rest in peace along with him, inasmuch as that is possible. Amen.

Margaret Scheirman - October 22, 2015 at 04:13 PM

BG

“*Rose and family, I just found out about Jim's passing. I was truly blessed to know him and you. I treasure all the time I had with him as a graduate student, friend and associate. His presence on my graduate committee provided opportunity for conversations, creating understanding, and producing something that others could made use of. He never lost sight of kindness, the willingness to help and the value of an outstretched hand. I bless him and you and count myself fortunate to have known him. Treasure all of your good memories. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Becky Gerlach CSU MS 80*

Becky Gerlach - June 29, 2015 at 04:52 PM

NM

“*I will always remember Jim in Ixtapa, Mexico and how he loved to walk on the beach. Rose would put a napkin from the hotel in his pocket in case he got lost but he always found his way back and would have a beer in the afternoon. We celebrated Rose's Birthday and had wonderful weather for January.*

Nancy C Miltenberger - June 22, 2015 at 05:16 PM

KH

“*Dear Mrs. Brinks and family,
I am so very sorry for your loss. I remember your husband as one of the kindest men I've ever met in my life, with eyes that glowed with the light of God. May he rest in peace in Heaven. Sincere condolences from Kim Vonder Haar in Canada (Rex's friend).*


Kim Vonder Haar - June 22, 2015 at 10:11 AM

GO

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time. He gave a lot to his community and will be missed by family and friends.

Carolyn and Jane Goodwin

Goodwin - June 16, 2015 at 09:55 AM

 Lauren
Hyde

“ Dear Rose and the Brinks family,

I am so saddened to hear about Dr. Brink's passing. Although he retired by the time I started graduate school, his influence was a major part of my education and career. He taught my mentors, Rick Bourdon and Bruce Golden, so well and always gave a practical view to a science that is so technical. He earned so much respect and admiration from animal breeders worldwide.

I lost my mother to Alzheimer's last August and my husband to a massive heart attack just two months ago. I have a feeling I know how all of you must be feeling. I wish you strength and peace in the days, months and years ahead. Your fond memories of Jim will help you move through your grief.

Kind regards,

Lauren Hyde

Ph.D. in Animal Breeding, CSU, Class of 2000

Lauren Hyde - June 15, 2015 at 10:23 PM

PJ

“ Our deepest sympathy upon the loss of your husband, father, grandfather and beloved family member. May God comfort you and give you strength.

Sincerely,
Pat & Reid Jacob
Neighbors and friend

Patricia Jacob - June 15, 2015 at 11:51 AM

MS

“ Dear Rose and Family,

I was sadden to find out this morning that Jim had passed away. I am so glad that I got to know him and wish I could have known him better. He was a great and honorable man. I hope your fond memories will lighten your grieving. Cry often, hug alot, remember and laugh often, and repeat until the pain softens. God Bless you Rose and your wonderful family.

Mark Sears

Mark Sears - June 15, 2015 at 11:42 AM

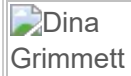
ES

“ Dear Rose and family,

Thanks for caring for our lands, river and community. Thanks for honoring the history of this special place on the planet.

Eric

eric sutherland - June 15, 2015 at 12:29 AM



Dina
Grimmett

“ Dear Rose,

I will never forget Jim's quiet and dignified presence at the meetings of our group. May he rest in peace, and may your memories of him bring you comfort, Rose.

With sympathy,

Dina Strong Grimmett

Dina Grimmett - June 14, 2015 at 07:37 PM



JJ

“ Rose and Family,

I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Jim. He was such a kind man and I'm sure will be missed by many. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Jamie Jefferson (Dr. Rotman's medical assistant)

Jamie Jefferson - June 14, 2015 at 07:11 PM

BL

“ *Rose and Family,*

It is with great sadness that I learned of Jim's passing this week. As with all of his graduate students, he served as a mentor and father figure for those of us that were far away from home. In the Fall of 1984, he took the "new" group of us to Miles City, MT where we began learning about practical beef cattle research along with how to play poker. We turned the seats around in the van so we could use a cooler as a table and then drove for eight hours. There were many other trips that involved education and poker including Moscow, ID, Tucson, AZ and of course Hesperus.

I didn't realize that I would be a statistician when I finished my Masters but he taught the subject with such ease. Always telling us that we should like computers because he did all of his Masters and PhD statistics on an adding machine. I think he even saved all of the tapes.

He hired me to work for Bruce Golden as CSU-CGEL was created. There were many long sessions as the first sire summaries were generated but he always helped us find the issues that needed to be solved with such patience.

When I moved to Durango in 1990 and began working at the San Juan Basin Research Center, we stayed in touch. After his retirement, he brought me boxes of Hesperus-related material including glass slides, pictures, overheads and a very cherished corn cob pipe that I found in one of the boxes. In 2010, I became manager of the Old Fort at Hesperus (formerly SJBRC) and have his picture and that pipe on my desk to remind me of the amazing people who have worked at the facility. On Friday, we bred some cows to El Dolor 6032 (Red Angus bull) and I spent some time looking at pictures of Prospector and Tarrington bulls that he had sent me. Unfortunately, I can't make it to the service on Monday but I will certainly be thinking of him and your family. I

Because of his guidance, I will be forever grateful.

Beth Smith LaShell
Durango, CO

Beth LaShell - June 14, 2015 at 02:59 PM

RG

“ Rose and Family-

I just learned about the passing of my friend and mentor Dr. Brinks. Just a few weeks ago, I mentioned to Jane that we needed to get to Fort Collins to see Jim, Don LeFever and others. Now I will have to wait to see him in the next life.

Our deepest sympathy to you and the Brinks and Dean clans, I know you will miss him dearly. I wish Jane and I could be there tomorrow for the services, but I am assuming the role of provost of the University of Nebraska at the moment and thus our life is not as much under our control as it once was. We will be with you in spirit and will keep you especially in our prayers in the days ahead.

I am sure that I speak for all of Jim's many students in saying that he was a monumental figure in all of our lives. We revered him for his wisdom, intellect, kindness, generosity, down to earth nature, and how he invested himself in each of us. My father was diagnosed with leukemia while I was studying with Jim -- and he helped me as a second father in dealing with and accepting my own Dad's disease that took him from us a few years later -- knowing how hard it was for me to be in Colorado with my family so far away in Virginia.

Trips to Hesperus, staying in the Library, and incessantly playing poker to learn statistics -- all the while with a gentle demeanor, a laugh, and a smile -- will always be indelibly marked in my mind.

You taught us all well, Doc, we only hope to impact the lives of our students and mentees as well as you did for us

Hoping you are enjoying smoking your pipe in heaven!

*Ronnie and Jane Green & Family
Lincoln, Nebraska*

Ronnie D Green - June 14, 2015 at 01:44 PM

JA

“ Dear Rose and family,
I am so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. I remember him as a gentle man, so proud of his wife and children. I had the pleasure of working with many of the children at Bennett Elementary School. Alan, Rex, and Mary were students in my 3rd grade classroom, and the others were down the hall or around the corner over the years. I was a young teacher, who arrived at Bennett in 1969. Alan was in that class. Rose, you were a vibrant, enthusiastic, supportive parent. Jim always had a smile on his face when next to you. My prayers and thoughts are with you at this difficult time.
Fondly,
Janie Gronenthal Arnold

Janie Arnold - June 14, 2015 at 12:37 PM

KJ

“ Rose and family, sorry to hear of Jim's passing he's in a very happy place now, and you will find comfort in knowing that. He was a very nice man always enjoyed waiting on him. Too all of you our deepest sympathy. Kay and Ralph Johnson and children Craig, Jeff and Jodi

Kay Johnson - June 14, 2015 at 10:33 AM

BS

“ Jim was the finest gentlemen I have had the pleasure to have known. I first met Jim in 1969 at Colorado State University. He was a well respected scientist and teacher and one of the best poker players I have known. (only very friendly games with friends). He will be missed by all who have known him. Bill Spencer

Bill Spencer - June 14, 2015 at 09:08 AM

RL

“ Rose and family was sorry to hear of Jims passing. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you on Monday. May he rest in peace.
Roger and Sammie Sis Lahodny

roger lahodny - June 14, 2015 at 12:12 AM

TJ

“ Rose and family , was sadden to hear about Jim, may he rest in piece..
will keep you and your family in our prayers .

Teresa {Ruda}.& Lloyd Johnston

Teresa {Ruda} & Lloyd Johnston - June 13, 2015 at 09:23 PM

MD

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Mary Dean - June 13, 2015 at 09:00 PM

KT

“ I will never forget the kind man who was our neighbor on Sheely Drive. My thoughts are with his family.

Kacy Thompson
Lund, Sweden

Kacy Thompson - June 13, 2015 at 06:05 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Stephen Brinks.*



June 13, 2015 at 04:21 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Stephen Brinks.*



June 13, 2015 at 04:13 PM