



Vern Swanson

June 15, 2009

Vern B. Swanson, 84, died June 15, 2009 at his residence. Mr. Swanson was born February 8, 1925, in Alta, Iowa to John and Thelma Kelso Swanson. He grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico, was a graduate of Albuquerque High School, and earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees from New Mexico State University and a doctorate in animal breeding from Iowa State University. He was a veteran of the United States Army serving in the China-Burma-India sector during World War II and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal in recognition of service as a pilot in the U. S. Army Air Force. Vern was very pleased to be a participant of the Honor Flight to Washington D.C. in April of 2009. He joined the Department of Animal Sciences at Colorado State University in 1956 with primary teaching and research responsibilities in wool technology and sheep production. He retired in 1985 as a full professor in addition to being the Colorado Extension Sheep and Wool Specialist. He served as a judge for sheep and wool shows in the U.S. and developed many practical field trials and educational programs for Colorado producers. His contributions were recognized by the U.S. sheep industry with the Silver Ram Award. Prior to and during his retirement he was a consultant on sheep and wool productions in Brazil, Mali, Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. He was an avid football fan of the CSU Rams and the Denver Broncos. He also enjoyed golfing, fishing, and skiing. He was a member of the American Society of Animal Sciences, Hump Pilots Association, Elks Lodge #804, Fort Collins Country Club, and the Northern

Colorado Seniors Golf Association. Survivors include his wife, Virginia Swanson of Ft. Collins; a daughter, Susan Wells and her husband, Gordon of Ft. Collins; two sons, Vern B. Jr. "Topper" and his wife Robbie of Denver, and John D. and his wife, Sherri of Houston, Texas; six grandchildren, Jono, Meghan, and Joey of Denver and Brooke, Jack, and David of Houston; and two step-grandchildren, Aubrey Baar and her husband Chris of Loveland and their daughter Vivian and Matthew Wells and his wife Stephanie and their son Wesley of Ft. Collins. His parents and sister preceded him in death. A memorial service will be held Friday, 10:00 a.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 2000 Stover. Rev. Harold Warren will officiate at the services. Memorial contributions may be made to The Community Foundation, C/O Honor Flight Northern Colorado , 711 8th Ave Greeley, CO 80631 and Animal Sciences Wool Judging Team, C/O Colorado State University Foundation, PO Box 1870, Fort Collins CO 80522.

Tribute Wall

GR

“ Virginia and Swanson family members, Steve and I were sad to hear of Vern's passing. Vern and I were on staff in the Animal Science Dept at CSU for 10 years where we shared many laughs and dis'cussed' many academic decisions. We remember fondly many off campus get togethers--where Vern was always the life of the party and charming. We hope your happy memories can fill the sorrow you are now feeling. Love and prayers. Ginger and Steve Rich

Ginger Rich - July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.

Carolyn and Jane Goodwin - June 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

NA

“ May God bless the Swanson family during this tragic and sudden loss.

Nasir Ali - June 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Dear Susan and family, Your father's greatest gift to the world were his children. May you carry in your heart all the wonderful memories you have of your father and share these memories with your own children. Thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Sue Wintheiser - June 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TE

“ God Bless All the Swanson Family and be closer to them in this time of need...May we all find comfort in the arms of the Lord!

Teddy - June 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ We send our thoughts, prayers, and sympathy to all of the Swanson family. May the wonderful memories of your husband, father, and grandfather bring peace and comfort.

Dennis and Nancy Marion - June 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ A flood of fond memories came over me upon hearing about Vern's passing. The Swanson and McCoy gatherings were so much fun. From our gatherings in Steamboat and La Jolla to the White Elephant, 4th of July and Labor Day get togethers. May these memories comfort you.

Kevin McCoy - June 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ So sorry to hear of Vern's passing. We have great golfing memories with Vern. Our thoughts are with his family. David & Darlene Decklever

David and Darlene Decklever - June 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and all your family. My deepest condolences.

Sylvia Hernandez - June 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ I would like to give my deepest Condolences to the Swanson Family for your Lose. I have read over his life accomplishments, and he seems to have lived a very Full life. I'm sure his life Inspired many people to live there life in a brighter light. Yes I know he'll be missed, but again we should all be so lucky to have done some much in life as he did. Topper I just wanted you to know you and yours have not been forgotten, and your Father will always be with you. May he shine down from Heaven and help guide you and yours in life. God Bless rest his Soul, and God Bless his family he left behind.

Chris jensen - June 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ I am deeply sorry for your loss. May God give you strength, courage and comfort at this time of sorrow. May God bless you and your family.

Trini Robles - June 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

VB

“ John, I'm sorry to hear about your Dad passing. My thoughts and prayers go to your family. My the Lord grant the family peace during this hard time.

Victor Barrera - June 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Mrs. Swanson and Family, I'm deeply sad to read about your loss. I have fond memories of Mr. Swanson and our visits in the early morning hours at the swimming pool. Just this week, on Monday, a morning swimmer asked about him and I had a lovely rush of all the wonderful conversation we had. He was a kind man and I will miss him. Mary Coupe

Mary Coupe - June 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM