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In Memoriam: Dr. Loren Harrison Evans

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dr. loren harrison evans

in memoriam

Dr. Evans practiced veterinary medicine as a professor of equine surgery at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine. Having graduated with honors from Washington State University, he attended veterinary school at the same university.

Subsequent to his graduation, he was awarded an internship at the University of Pennsylvania, where over the next 33 years he was promoted to full professor and earned multiple honors. In addition to his clinical accomplishments, he conducted research into chronic equine lameness and pioneered the first successful abdominal colon surgery, paving the way for saving once-doomed horses. Dr. Evans also designed many of the surgical instruments used today for cervical and rectal repairs. Students enjoyed their rotations in his clinical service and most, who were headed into equine practice, elected to repeat this chance to learn from his practical approach to clinical examination and treatment. Field trips to large breeding operations in the tri-state area, operated by Dr. Evans' clients, were an unusual opportunity coveted by all students. Famous for his unconventional therapeutic efforts, his former students credit him with bringing enthusiasm and passion to the study of equine medicine and remaining a mentor throughout their careers.

During his tenure at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Evans' patients included many famous race horses: Bold Ruler (sire of Secretariat), Northern Dancer, Romeo Hanover and countless others. He was called upon to lecture and perform surgery all over the world. In 1972, he was invited to the Veterinary School of Pretoria in Onderstepoort, South Africa, receiving an honorary citizenship and the high esteem of both faculty and the student body. Awards and laurels followed Dr. Evans even after his retirement from the University of Pennsylvania in 1993. In 2003, he received the Distinguished Educator Award from the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the association to which the vast majority of equine veterinarians worldwide belong.

After his retirement, Dr. Evans returned with his wife, Phyllis Evans, to his ancestral home, the Flathead Valley of Montana. Here he traded his surgical scrubs for jeans and his new vocation, cattle rancher. Although theoretically retired, he worked with the same dedication he'd given to veterinary medicine – building up a sizeable herd of cattle, sowing his own hay and doing all the things any cowboy would be expected to do.

Dr. Evans was preceded in death by his wife of 43 years, Phyllis J. Evans, and four siblings. He is survived by his daughter Rebekkah Evans and her daughter Stephanie J. Seymour; his son Barry R. Evans and his children Lauren Evans and Ryan Evans; in addition to many nieces and nephews.

CONTACTUS

Have you received a promotion, gotten married, had a baby or received an award? Have you volunteered somewhere special, moved into a new building, ventured into a new business or discovered the cure for avian flu? Please share with us all of your good news to include in the CLASS NOTES section of the *Bellwether* and the vet.upenn.edu website. All residents, interns and fellows are also invited to share!

Forward all alumni news to Kristen McMullen at kmcmul@vet.upenn.edu or write Office of Alumni Relations, 3800 Spruce Street, Suite 172 E, Philadelphia, PA 19104.