



Dale Duane Wolf

June 26, 1932 - April 22, 2022

Dale Duane Wolf, age 89, passed away in his sleep, on April 22, 2022. Born on June 26, 1932 at the Wolf Family Farm in Harlan County Nebraska, Dale was preceded in death by his parents, Leo and Alberta (Burton) Wolf.

Dale married Evelyn Lucile Zysset in Orafino, Nebraska on November 28, 1952. After sixty-nine years of marriage, Dale is survived by Evelyn, their four children, and eleven grandchildren: son, David & wife Pat Wolf (children Adam Wolf and Isaac Wolf) of Roanoke VA; daughter Laurie Wolf (child Will Hunter) of Roanoke, VA; son, Eric Wolf & wife Tammie Sarver (children Sarah Wolf, Emily Grace Sarver-Wolf, Elias Sarver-Wolf, Jeremiah Sarver-Wolf and Eva Rose Sarver-Wolf) of Floyd VA; and son Allan Wolf & wife Ginger West (children Simon Wolf, Ethan Wolf, and Jameson Wolf) of Asheville NC.

Dale is survived by brothers Marlyn Wolf of Gothenburg, NE, and Wayne Wolf of Bryan, TX, and sisters Rita King of Lakewood, CO, and Letha Perks of Stockville, NE.

Dale's education included a BS and MS in Agronomy (University of Nebraska, 1954 and 1959), and a PhD in Agronomy, with a specialization in Forage and Pasture Management (University of Wisconsin, 1962). Early teaching included Vocational Agriculture in Red Cloud and Arapaho, NE. After graduate studies in Wisconsin, Dale became assistant professor of Agronomy

at University of Connecticut in Storrs.

In January 1967 he joined the faculty of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (now Virginia Tech). As full professor his responsibilities included supervision of undergraduate and graduate students. His research and extension work emphasized forage crop management and physiology, biofuels production, as well as methods and instrumentation for measuring basic growth factors such as photosynthesis of intact plants and individual leaves attached to the plant (using small portable chambers). Dale was a member of several scientific societies and contributed numerous research extension publications. He was advisor and committee member for one hundred and fifty-four Doctoral and Masters graduate students. He finally retired as a Professor Emeritus on December 31, 1995.

Dale was a longtime active member of the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, was a Deacon/Elder, and taught Sunday School at several levels including all grades PreK through Fifth as well as pre-catechism class. He was Cub Scout and Boy Scout leader and on the board of directors for both Cub and Boy scouts. He loved gospel and country music, and played in several local bands at retirement homes and other local events. He played guitar, dobro, six-string banjo, bass guitar, Qchord, and harmonica. During retirement, Dale and Evelyn spent twenty-one summers in Frontier County Nebraska where he managed their family farm, along with a small herd of cattle.

Dale found joy in refurbishing several classic tractors. He contributed to a Guinness World Record by driving his 1937 F-20 Farmall in a parade with more than one thousand other antique tractors. To many, Dale was synonymous with the smiley faces and the lollypops he would distribute to students, friends, family and neighbors. He is now offering a song, a smiley face sticker, and a lollypop to all those who have gone on before.

A Celebration of the Life of Dale Wolf is scheduled for what would have been

Dale's 90th birthday, Sunday, June 26th (2:00PM), at the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, in Blacksburg, VA.

In lieu of flowers or monetary donations Evelyn asks that you honor Dale's memory by performing an act of kindness for someone, either loved-one or stranger.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **26**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church
701 Church Street SE
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Tribute Wall

MM

“ *Mary Matz lit a candle in memory of Dale Duane Wolf*



Mary Matz - June 26, 2022 at 06:24 PM

MM

Laurie, Dale's daughter, is a dear friend of mine, and although, I never met her Dad, her stories and the memories shared below describe a man full of life, love, and fun! My heart goes out to his family... I know he will be sorely missed.

Mary Matz - June 26, 2022 at 06:27 PM

BM

“ *My sincerest sympathy to Dale's family. I met Dale when he played music with the New River Valley Boys, I will forever remember the many folk songs he sang with the group, my favorite was Five Pounds of Possum. He will certainly be missed.*

Betty Metzler - June 21, 2022 at 09:25 PM

RK

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Randy Kates - June 01, 2022 at 06:28 PM

TE

“ I was a Lab Specialist in Dr. Wolf's Crop Physiology research lab for 24 years, until his retirement. I was working as a temp in the state soil testing lab in Smyth Hall when we first met. I had constructed a hair hygrometer to measure relative humidity from a plan in Popular Science after having secured several 3-foot strands of hair from a girl who was also working in the soils lab. I showed the construction to Mark Alley who was working on a PhD while managing the soils lab, and mentioned that I had no way to calibrate it. He suggested contacting Dr. Wolf, who subsequently introduced me and my hygrometer to his impressive complex of Smyth Hall basement growth chambers, and thus was able to establish several accurate calibration points. As it happened, Dale was looking for a new lab technician, and shortly thereafter offered me the position. Over the years, we collaborated on many improvements to lab procedures, developed new automated instrumentation, and embraced computer technologies when they became available. Dale was a very creative and innovative scientist and certainly knew his crop physiology. I admired both his acumen as a scientist and his practical, common-sense approach to problem solving. Dale was very indulgent and supportive of interests and activities that didn't directly support his research. He mentored hundreds of students, and his office door was open to anyone for any reason; whether to pose a problem or to cop a lollypop. He had an instinctive knack for making everyone feel welcome and important. He pursued a range of extracurricular interests; whether tearing apart a VW engine, rebuilding a farm tractor, or playing a number of instruments with groups that performed for retirement communities in the area, he was always busy with something. I had the good fortune to have known and worked with this good man, and he is sorely missed.

Ted Ellmore - May 10, 2022 at 03:51 PM

EK

“ I’m so sorry to hear of Dale’s passing we played music together for years and just talked to two weeks ago. He said he and Evelyn were moving to Warm Hearth last week. My heart goes out to his family, he will be missed. 🙏🙏🙏

Ed Keen - April 27, 2022 at 05:02 PM

JC

“ I served with Dale on the VT faculty for 30+ years. He was a very talented man. I specifically mention his work to commercialize switchgrass in Virginia, both as a grazing crop and as a bioenergy feedstock.
Dale was one of those people who made every day you are with him a better day. He just was a delightful man. I enjoyed, and was inspired by, every day we had together.
I was on sabbatical leave in 1998 at the University of Nebraska. During that time, Dale and Evelyn spent their summers on the family farm in Nebraska, so I drove out to visit them. I did not have experience driving in rural Nebraska, so it was interesting to come to a gravel road intersection with no signs, no markers of any time---none. I knew I was getting close to Dale's house when I looked way down the road and saw a satellite dish painted with a giant smiley face. I had a great visit with two wonderful Nebraska people.
Thanks to Jesus's sacrifice, we will meet again on heaven's shore.

John Cundiff - April 27, 2022 at 11:24 AM

JH

“ What a wonderful man. He was a pleasure to work with in the Agronomy Department at Virginia Tech. He was outstanding in his profession and a tremendous asset to Virginia agriculture. What I will always remember is his tremendous smile and friendly personality. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

John R Hall III - April 26, 2022 at 11:32 PM

AB

“ The first time I saw Dale was when I was working at Commonwealth Senior Living where I was working at the time. Dale was part of several other musicians playing at our community. What made him stand out from the rest was his red cowboy hat and see through guitar. Soon after I introduced myself and we started talking. Fast forward several months and COVID shuts off all outside entertainment. About a year and a half later, my supervisor informs that we have a volunteer coming in to play for the residents. As he's sitting in our lobby at Warm Hearth, I recognize him and we begin talking again. A few shows down the road and we become friends and eventually wind up playing together with the New River Valley Boys. Although I wound up leaving the band a few months later, we kept in contact. Shortly thereafter, he told me that he had some health issues and would no longer be able to volunteer. Still, we kept in touch. I was very surprised when he told me he and Evelyn were moving to The Willows in the Kroontje Health Care Center. I was happy that I would be seeing my friend almost every day. The music would continue one way or another. Although I didn't know it at the time, and neither did he, but we spoke of him coming to hear me play music. I was excited and happy. The next morning I walked into the front door at work and I found out that Dale was gone. I was sad then and I am just as sad now. I let my tears fall. Dale was a truly good man and a real food friend in the relatively short time I knew him. I will truly miss him. My sincere condolences to his entire family and especially to his wonderful wife Evelyn. Dale will not be forgotten.

Alex Buettiker - April 25, 2022 at 09:13 PM

RS

“ My prayers go out to Dale's wife, children and grandchildren. He was an amazing man. Will miss hearing him play music at the Prices Fork Grange. Rest in Peace Dale.

Rosemary Sheppard - April 25, 2022 at 05:21 PM