



Dr. Don Ray Waldron

April 8, 2026

Dr. Don Ray Waldron of Blacksburg, Virginia, passed away on Wednesday, April 8, 2026. He was 78 years old.

Don was born in Tampa, Florida, and raised in Miami, where he graduated from Coral Gables High School. From an early age, he loved animals and knew with certainty that he wanted to be a veterinarian. He went on to attend the University of Missouri, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Animal Husbandry and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. He further distinguished himself through an internship at Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston and a surgical residency at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. He was a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and a Diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners.

Don's career was that of an international educator, a healer, and a mentor. He taught surgery to generations of veterinary students, interns, and residents at Louisiana State University, the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech, the Atlantic Veterinary College in Prince Edward Island, Canada, the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph, Ontario, and the Universidad Austral de Chile. He co-authored textbooks that were translated into multiple languages, including Japanese and Italian, and contributed to numerous peer-reviewed publications. As Chief Veterinary Medical Officer of the Western Veterinary Conference at the Oquendo Center in Las Vegas,

Nevada, he provided leadership and continuing education to veterinarians from around the world.

He was equally at home in the wilderness and the world. Don visited all 50 states, often taking his family on summer road trips across the United States and Canada, camping in national parks, hiking, hunting, and whitewater rafting. He was a dedicated runner who completed more than a dozen marathons and also competed as a cyclist and triathlete. He climbed Mount Rainier and Mount Olympus, was a licensed pilot with an instrument rating, a glider pilot, and a skeet and trap shooter. He even rafted the Zambezi River in Zimbabwe — crocodiles included.

Don was a man of faith and service. A longtime member of Blacksburg United Methodist Church, he served on the church council and taught Sunday school for many years. He was a friend of Bill W. for 38 years and worked tirelessly to help others in this endeavor. He volunteered as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and was a proud member of the Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club.

He is survived by his wife, Claire Meyer Waldron; his daughters Leigh Waldron, Rennie Waldron, and Camille Street (Wes); his granddaughter Elle Meyer Street; his sister Barbara Reker; his brother Neal Edward Waldron (Joanne); and numerous in-laws, nieces, and nephews.

A service will be held at Blacksburg United Methodist Church on April 16th at 2pm, with a reception to follow.

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt thanks to the staff of Brookdale Memory Care and Good Samaritan Hospice for their exceptional and compassionate care.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Virginia Tech Veterinary Teaching Hospital Compassionate Care Fund or Strauss Hospice House.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Gardens of the New River Valley

2551 N. MAIN ST.
BLACKSBURG, VA 24060

Previous Events

Funeral Service

APR **16**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Blacksburg United Methodist Church
111 Church Street SE
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Tribute Wall

BD

“ Dr. Waldron changed the trajectory of life when he told me, "I think I could teach you surgery." For those that knew him, that was a strong compliment. His words and teaching were valuable. I won't forget him.

Brett Darrow - April 29 at 02:28 PM

C(

Brett, thank you for your comments. We love hearing memories from those who knew him!

Camille Street (Waldron) - April 29 at 09:14 PM

DL

“ As a former student I learned so much from him. He was always kind, compassionate, and full of knowledge. He will be greatly missed in the veterinary community. My thoughts go out to his family ❤️

Danielle Lewis - April 16 at 11:49 PM

C(

Danielle, thank you for sharing your memories, we love hearing them ❤️

Camille Street (Waldron) - April 29 at 09:15 PM

CS

“ As a former student, I'm very sad to see this. After reading his obituary I wish I had known some of those things when I was a student over 20 years ago. I'd love to have talked to him more knowing all the varied things he did.

Cheryl Simpson-Freeman - April 16 at 03:43 PM

C(

Cheryl, Thank you for sharing. It means so much for us to hear this ❤️

Camille Street (Waldron) - April 29 at 09:15 PM

LB

“ *Sending much love to Claire, Leigh, Rennie, Camille and the family. As a technician in the small animal clinic I can say unequivocally, he was respected and revered for his knowledge and teaching style. Hang on tight to all the stories and memories. May they comfort you in the days ahead.*

Lynn Brammer - April 16 at 07:26 AM

C(

Lynn, thank you for sharing! We so appreciate it ❤️

Camille Street (Waldron) - April 29 at 09:16 PM

AS

“ *To Claire, Leigh, Rennie & Camille: I am so sorry for the loss of your husband/father. I remember Don fondly and know he was a dear friend to my father Gray. ❤️ Achée*

Achée Stevenson - April 16 at 12:39 AM

C(

Achee, we so appreciate this. Your Dad's presence was a huge comfort to us all ❤️

Camille Street (Waldron) - April 29 at 09:16 PM

AS

“ *Achée S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.*

Achée S. - April 16 at 12:31 AM

BK

“ Bob and Kay purchased the Simply Elegant Spat
hiphyllum for the family of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.



Bob and Kay - April 15 at 06:37 PM

BK

“ Bob and Kay planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.

Bob and Kay - April 15 at 06:37 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family
of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.



April 15 at 12:33 PM

L1

“ Life-Guard 11 purchased the Peaceful White Lilies
Basket for the family of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.



Life-Guard 11 - April 15 at 11:30 AM

MF

“ Dr. Waldron was one of my most influential mentors while in veterinary school at LSU - his support and that of other surgeons there contributed greatly to my decision to pursue veterinary surgery as a profession. I will always remember him fondly. Deepest sympathy to his family.

Mike Flynn - April 14 at 06:31 PM

C(

Mike, we love hearing memories from those who knew him. Thank you ❤️

Camille Street (Waldron) - April 29 at 09:17 PM

JP

“ What a great mentor and surgeon! Don will be missed. I have so many memories of him at Va Tech.

John Payne - April 14 at 05:11 PM

C(

John, thank you for sharing ❤️

Camille Street (Waldron) - April 29 at 09:17 PM

TD

“ Jake, you will be missed! Keep your eyes open for the Penguin. Thanks for the ride, this time gas tank is full. Elwood

Terry Dew - April 14 at 02:23 PM

CM

“ Cheryl Hedlund & John Mazoch purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.



Cheryl Hedlund & John Mazoch - April 13 at 03:08 PM

CM

“ Cheryl Hedlund & John Mazoch planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.

Cheryl Hedlund & John Mazoch - April 13 at 03:08 PM

PS

“ Peter, Jeanette and Ivan Shires purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.



Peter, Jeanette and Ivan Shires - April 13 at 03:05 PM

PS

“ Peter, Jeanette and Ivan Shires planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.

Peter, Jeanette and Ivan Shires - April 13 at 03:05 PM

AK

“ Aroon K. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.

Aroon K. - April 13 at 01:54 PM

MP

“ Michael P. purchased the A Full Life for the family of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.



Michael P. - April 12 at 06:15 PM

MP

“ Michael P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.

Michael P. - April 12 at 06:15 PM

HR

“ his Surgical Residents planted a grove of 10 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.

his Surgical Residents - April 11 at 07:08 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.



April 11 at 04:19 PM



“ Claire and family; Pat and I are saddened at this news but are convinced Don resides with God in a better place where both humans and animals are valued to the utmost! From one of the three Dons: Don MacNicoll.

Don MacNicoll - April 10 at 04:26 PM



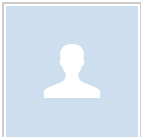
Don, thank you for sharing. ❤️

Camille Street (Waldron) - April 29 at 09:18 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.

April 10 at 12:48 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.



April 10 at 12:33 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.



April 10 at 08:37 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.

April 10 at 08:37 AM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.

April 09 at 09:00 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.



April 09 at 08:16 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.

April 09 at 08:16 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.

April 09 at 07:06 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.



April 09 at 04:08 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Don Ray Waldron.

April 09 at 04:08 PM