



## Richard George Saacke

October 31, 1931 - August 20, 2023

Richard George Saacke

October 31, 1931 - August 20, 2023

Richard (Dick) George Saacke, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, friend, mentor, and teacher, died peacefully at home, surrounded by family. He lived a life filled with gratitude and love.

Dick was raised by his parents, Minnie and George Saacke, Newark, NJ, where they instilled in him a strong work ethic, regard for family, and a passion for sports. He graduated from vocational high school, went on to Rutgers University to study animal husbandry, and continued studies at Penn State University.

Dick is survived by the love of his life, Ann Laird Litzelman Saacke, who as "the wind beneath his wings," provided him unwavering support, dedication, and love. Together, they built a family that brought immeasurable joy to their lives: Wendy, Scott, Kris, Ron, and David. He spoke fondly of their accomplishments and especially of the incredible partners they found in Dan, Linda, Joel, Jamie, and Kate. Dick's grandchildren brought him even more joy: Kyle, Evan; Matt, Mike, Alex; Clay and Rebecca, Andy, Nate and Heather; Erin, Jonah; Olivia, Will, and Adam; as did the more recent arrival of his great-

grandchildren Violet and Sydney. He cherished his Godson, Christian Leiding, of Germany. Dick's beloved golden retriever, Huck, also survives.

"Mange Takk" (Many Thanks), a phrase discovered by Dick and Ann on epitaphs in Norway became their lifelong mantra. As his time on Earth ended, Dick specifically offered Mange Takk to his Creator, family, friends, students, teachers, mentors, colleagues, doctors, nurses, and in more recent years for the marvelous home health team.

Dick expressed deep gratitude for his vocation as a professor of reproductive physiology at Virginia Tech where he interfaced with outstanding scientists, students and friends throughout the Commonwealth, nation, and the world. His graduate students were the sparks that kept the flame lit in him, and he took great pride in their many achievements. He was grateful for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Department of Dairy Science where he was enabled to teach and research the biology of reproduction in farm animals in a creative, productive, and friendly environment. Dick served in the US Army (Signal Corp) and credited it for many lessons learned, including appreciation for his country and for those who gave their lives in preserving freedoms.

A Celebration of Life will take place September 22, 2023. While Dick loved growing flowers, his invitation was, "If you are inclined to do anything, please give to a charity of your choosing or to someone or something of importance to you. Mange Takk."

Published by Roanoke Times on Aug. 27, 2023.

PLEASE JOIN THE SAACKE FAMILY ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

1 PM CELEBRATING DICK SAACKE  
A Service of Gratitude and Commemoration

Glade Church  
1600 Glade Road, Blacksburg, Virginia.

Due to limited parking at Glade Church, please carpool to the church so we can reserve space for those who require accessible (handicap) parking.

Overflow Parking and Shuttle Provided. We ask those who are able and willing to please park at: Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church  
2101 Shadow Lake Road, Blacksburg, Virginia

A shuttle will be operating from Noon to 12:45 PM for transportation to and from Glade Church.

Service can be attended virtually at 1:00 PM, 9/22 at: <https://wlu.zoom.us/j/96299608115>

3PM – 5PM RECEPTION – A Time for Refreshments, Visits, and Storytelling  
Following the Service

Alphin-Stuart Livestock Teaching Arena  
Virginia Tech  
600 Plantation Road  
Blacksburg, Virginia

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

SEP **22**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Glade Church  
1600 Glade Road  
blacksburg, VA 24060

## Reception

SEP **22**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Alphin-Stuart Livestock Teaching Arena  
600 Plantation Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

# Tribute Wall

SW

“ I was able to interact with Dick a few times professionally and after I retired from NC State, I was able to visit with Dick and Ann a few times in Blacksburg. Last year, Connie and I stopped in Blacksburg on a rainy evening in August as we were returning from West Virginia to North Carolina. I called Dick and asked if he might be available for a visit the next day. He said to come by about 9:00 and he would share a quiche he had just made. Sure enough, 90-year-old Dick Saacke and Ann shared a very pleasant breakfast with Connie and me. What a precious memory. I was disappointed that we could not attend the service today but I came down with a mild case of COVID earlier in the week.

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**Steve Washburn** - September 22, 2023 at 03:49 PM

RG

“ Our Condolences. Dick was a fabulous neighbor. We really enjoyed stopping to sit and talk with him on our neighborhood walks. He was usually sitting out and grilling when we came by. He loved his dogs. He once drove my wife, Diane, around the neighborhood to search for our runaway dog. He is missed and will be. Peace to you all.

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**Richard Goff** - September 22, 2023 at 12:47 PM

LC

“ Uncle Dick made time to stop in Brooklyn for a visit with nieces Mary and Janne on way to speak in Russia-circa late 70's.



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**Linda Curry** - September 22, 2023 at 12:05 PM

LC

“ *The Litzelman girls in spirit today with our Saacke cousins*💕💕



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**Linda Curry** - September 22, 2023 at 12:00 PM

LC

“ *Family visits always the best....*



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**Linda Curry** - September 22, 2023 at 11:59 AM

LC

“ *One of my favorite pictures of 2 of my favorite people!*

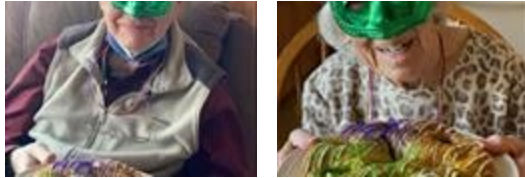


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**Linda Curry** - September 22, 2023 at 11:27 AM

RN

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Ray &Betsy Nebel - September 22, 2023 at 10:34 AM

RN

*Celebrating Mardi Gras with the Nebel family in 2022!*

Ray &Betsy Nebel - September 22, 2023 at 10:36 AM

JC

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



John E Chandler - September 20, 2023 at 04:08 PM

JC

*after his award lecture*

John E Chandler - September 20, 2023 at 04:11 PM

JM

“ *I have good memories of conversations with Dr. Saacke. He was kind and had a great sense of humor. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Saacke family.*

Jed Moore - September 18, 2023 at 09:02 PM

CA

“ *Dr. Saacke was one of my favorite professors as I pursued a degree in Animal Science. Even after I graduated & returned to Blacksburg, he was kind & recognized me which astounds me considering how many people he taught & mentored.*

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**Cathy** - September 15, 2023 at 08:20 AM



“ *I remember Dr. Saacke being so kind and friendly when he and his family came to our home. My sympathy to his beloved family - especially Mrs. Saacke!*

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**Liz Notess** - September 08, 2023 at 05:32 PM