



## **Dr. Charles D. Knecht, V.M.D., M.S.**

March 22, 1932 - September 20, 2011

Dr. Charles Daniel Knecht, 79, died Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at St. Joseph Hospital in Asheville, NC. A native of Halethorpe, Maryland, he was son of the late Frank Anthony and Mary Theresa (Lillian Valentini) Smith. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by his loving wife, L. Jean Hanna Knecht on June 2, 1985.

Dr. Knecht graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and received his B. S. in Agriculture from the University of Maryland, veterinary doctorate degree (V. M. D.) from the University of Pennsylvania, and Master of Science degree from the University of Illinois. After large and small animal practice in Richmond, VA, he served as USAF Captain and base veterinarian in Reno, NV and was the regional inspector for the Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board from 1956 – 1958 and remained in the USAF reserves until 1970. He was in private veterinary practice in Pittsburg, PA and Towson, MD from 1958-1964. He entered academic veterinary practice in 1964, advancing through positions to associate professor at the University of Illinois, professor and chief of veterinary surgery at both the University of Georgia and Purdue University, and professor and head of the department of Small Animal Surgery and Medicine at Auburn University from 1979 to 1997, retiring as professor emeritus.

Professor Knecht held membership in numerous professional honorary societies including Phi Zeta, Sigma Xi, Gamma Sigma Delta, Phi Beta Delta

international, the National Academies of Practice, the Charles Harrison Society and Auburn's George Petrie Society. He authored three editions of a surgical text and a book on veterinary electroencephalography plus more than 130 other scientific publications and hundreds of abstracts in *Chirurgia Veterinaria*, the abstract journal of the World Veterinary Medical Association. He lectured extensively throughout the United States and seven foreign countries, received five teaching awards, two outstanding clinician awards, the Alpha Psi Distinguished Service, the Omega Tau Sigma Theta, the Alabama Academy of Veterinary Practice Annual, the American Veterinary Medical Association Gaines and Veterinarian of the Year and the University Of Pennsylvania Alumni Achievement Of Merit Awards.

A Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and of the specialty Neurology of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, Dr. Knecht served each as president; also serving as president of the American Association of Veterinary Neurology, the Society for International Veterinary Symposia and of the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians. He served in the House of Delegates of the American Veterinary Medical Association for nine years. He also served on the Judicial Council for the latter beginning in July 2000 and as Chair of the Council from 2004-2006. Active in community affairs and charities, Professor Knecht served as director, president and secretary of the Lee County Division of the American Heart Association; treasurer, secretary, director and finally honorary member of the University Club; president and director of the Auburn University Academy of Lifelong Learners, a member with merit award and treasurer of the local Mended Hearts, Auburn Arts Association, Opelika Arts Association, Alabama Shakespeare Theater, the National Wildlife Federations and the Sierra Club. He was a lifelong practicing Catholic and Eucharistic minister for St. Michael's Catholic Church.

Survivors include his two sons, Charles Mark Knecht, Psy.D and his wife,

Jessica Presley of Asheville and Thomas Richard Knecht, J.D. and his wife Susan of Saint Louis, MO; three grandchildren, Jordan Knecht of St. Louis, Samuel Wriston Knecht and Rebecca Jean Knecht both of Asheville. He is also survived by a sister, Mary Joseph Robl and her husband, Louis and brother, Frank Knecht and his wife Sally all of Baltimore, MD.

A memorial service will be held 11:00 AM. Monday, September 26, 2011 at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Auburn. The family will receive friends in a reception immediately following the service. Interment will be held at Pine Grove Cemetery in Mt. Airy, Maryland at a later date.

The family respectfully requests a single red rose or donations to the Professor Charles Knecht Neurology Scholarship fund, Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine or to St. Michaels Church in Auburn.

# Previous Events

## Service

SEP **26**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Michael's Catholic Church  
1100 North College Street  
Auburn, AL 36830  
<http://www.stmichaelsauburn.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Charles D. Knecht, V.M.D., M.S.*

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October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM

LF

“ I remember so much about Charlie. He was a wonderful source of friendship and strength to me over the years. I remember.....

- a) Receiving his sympathy note when my much loved little Pekingese died and I barely know Charlie – I still have that wonderful note.
  - b) Over the years getting to know Charlie better. He was always the perfect gentleman
  - c) He was the only person I know besides my husband that cut his grass in short shorts. And they both had those little bird legs.
  - d) No matter what he was wearing he always looks so perfectly dressed.
  - e) Being shocked followed by fits of laughter at his Halloween costumes at my Halloween party.
  - f) He was always the perfect host when it was his turn to host our neighborhood coffees.
  - g) Calling him when I'd find a hurt or needy animal – the baby deer, baby squirrels, hurt goose, and the baby possums whose mother was dead.
  - h) Taking his class at Olli – how he was able to still teach even though his eyesight was failing him.
  - i) His sitting with me and explaining brain tumors after my little Pekingese Tasha was diagnosed with one.
  - j) How he held my hand while I cried with Tasha's health continued to digress – later I held his hand while he cried as his health digressed.
  - k) Taking him to the grocery, to Church, to Olli.
  - l) His giving me a single yellow rose one time, another time a single red rose.
  - m) His cute little smile followed by a kiss.
  - n) How his finger didn't straighten out – I'd had one like that for a while and we compared fingers.
- I could go on and on. I will miss him.  
Linda Fucci

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Linda Fucci - October 04, 2011 at 11:20 AM

DB

“ *Our Long Time Dear Friend and Colleague, Charlie Knecht, was truly a gentleman and a scholar. We will cherish the happy memories and always the smile on his face - and what a dancer!! Our Thoughts, Love and Prayers are with his family.*

*With Sympathy - Dr. Jan ad Mrs. Shirley Bartels, Auburn, Alabama*

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**Dr. Jan and Mrs. Shirley Bartels** - September 29, 2011 at 08:38 AM

DF

“ *When we first came to Auburn from western New York State, literally who were the first persons to welcome us in a most gracious manner, Charlie and Lee Cannon. Before we knew it we were involved in the Cotillion Club and the University Club.*

*Charlie was a person you just automatically gravitated to at any meeting. He was light hearted, and always interested in you and the Auburn community in general. My wife and I were really stunned when we read of his death in the Auburn newspaper. We both agreed that if there were more individuals like Charlie in this world, it would be a much more beautiful place.*

*God Bless,*

*Dick and Marty Frederick*

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**Dick and Marty Frederick** - September 25, 2011 at 08:01 PM