

Dr. Robert E. McKinney (1929-2004)

Dr. Robert E. McKinney, 74, of Springfield and formerly of Jacksonville, died Thursday morning, September 23, 2004 at Memorial Hospital in Springfield.

He was born Nov. 19, 1929 in Winchester, the son of Jesse H. and Bertha Renner McKinney Barnett. He married Marilyn Owdom on Dec. 23, 1951 in Patterson and she survives.

He is also survived by one daughter, Lynette (husband Jeffrey) Colman of Rochester; two grandchildren, Paige and Mitchell Colman; and one brother, Garry L. (wife Carolyn) Barnett of Park Forest. He was preceded in death by one son, Alan Wayne McKinney.

Dr. McKinney attended Illinois College in Jacksonville before receiving a B.S. in Animal Science and in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Illinois. He then received his D.V.M. from the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois. He was a partner in McKinney-Roegge Veterinary Clinic for thirty-three years, during which time he served as Administrator of Morgan County Animal Control Program for twenty-five years. He then served as Supervising Veterinarian for the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture, Foodborne Outbreak Coordinator for Illinois Dept. of Public Health and Administrator of Sangamon County Animal Control. He had also served as Director of Veterinary Health for Sangamon County Dept. of Public Health.

Dr. McKinney was a life member of American Veterinary Medical Assn., a life member and past President, Treasurer and member of the Central Illinois Executive Board of Illinois State Veterinary Medical Assn., and a member of Central Illinois Veterinary Medical Assn. for forty-two years, serving as President and a member of the Executive Board. He also served as President of the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medical Assn., and President of Student Chapter of American Veterinary Medical Assn. at the University of Illinois.

He received the Veterinary Service Award from Illinois State Veterinary Medical Assn., the Alumni Award from College of Veterinary Medicine at University of Illinois, was inducted into Jacksonville Area Hall of Fame in 1993, and received the "All of God's Creatures" Award from Jacksonville Protection of Animals League.

Dr. McKinney served on the District 117 Board of Education in Jacksonville as a Board Member and President. He also served a five-year term as Alumni Trustee of Illinois College, served as President of Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and as President and Board Member of Sherwood Eddy YMCA.

He was a member of First Presbyterian Church, was a life member of Jacksonville A. F. & A. M, a member of York Rite of Freemasonry, Ansar Shrine in Springfield, and a member of The Club, a Literary Organization founded in Jacksonville in 1862. He was a past President of Jacksonville Rotary, where he received the Paul Harris Award, and had been chairman of the Youth Exchange Committee for many years on the local and district level, a member of the Board of Directors, and a Leader of a Group Study Team to South Africa in 1988, and Coordinator of an Inbound Group Study Team from Chile in 1993. He served as a Sergeant with the First Armored Division in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He enjoyed gardening and he loved his profession.

Memorial services will be held 2 p.m. Saturday at First Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville. Burial will be at Jacksonville Memorial Lawn Cemetery. The family will meet friends following the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to Illinois College, First Presbyterian Church or Sangamon County Animal Control. Cody & Son Memorial Home is in charge of arrangements.