



Russell "Doc" Hardin

July 30, 1920 - August 4, 2021

Long-time Lebanon, Indiana and Boynton Beach, Florida resident Dr. Russell Warren Hardin ("Doc" or "Russ" to friends and Dad, Grandpa, Great Grandpa, Cousin or Uncle to family) died on August 4, 2021. Russ was born on his parents' family farm in Henry County, just outside of Knightstown, Indiana, on July 30, 1920. He was the second son of Fred Hardin and Mildred Stewart from whom he learned the importance of hard work, personal responsibility, Christianity, community service, family card games and Republican politics.

He grew up on the family farm, loved athletics and graduated from Knightstown High School in 1938. After graduation, he attended Purdue University where he met and married Pauline Guise (Peg) on April 11, 1943. He was an animal science major at Purdue, but his education was interrupted briefly by World War II, when he entered the U.S. Army Medical Corps and eventually reached Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas in 1944. There he was tested for enrollment in the Army Specialized Training Program (ATSP) and was transferred to Kansas State University's Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program, at a time when Kansas State was one of the few institutions offering this degree. While at Kansas State, Russ served in an ASTP unit, but was also a veterinary school student and decided to play football, which he did in 1944 and 1945. In 1945 he was captain of the KSU Wildcat team and earned All Big 8 recognition as a guard, while meeting the daily expectations of both his classes and the U.S. Army.

He graduated from Kansas State in January 1946, and moved to Lebanon, Indiana, with his wife Peg, who in July 1946 gave birth to daughter Judith Dianne (Judy). He immediately set up his veterinary practice, the Lebanon Veterinary Clinic, and embarked upon a career as a veterinarian, a community leader, a concerned parent, and an educational advocate. Five years later on February 19, 1951, Doc and Peg welcomed a second child, Eddy Russell (Ed), to their Lebanon family, an event that strengthened his family commitment to the community and its educational resources.

Russ began his veterinary practice when all practitioners were generalists—he treated all animals, large and small, at the clinic or on family farms. In the 1950s he traveled throughout Boone and nearby counties to help animals and their owners in times of crisis. While he eventually hired young veterinarians as assistants, he maintained a mixed practice. After Purdue created its Veterinary School, he took animals and tissue samples to West Lafayette for the latest diagnoses or procedures. He remembered that over his career he had taken three different sets of rabies vaccinations when they were painful and administered daily. He fondly recalled his oddest case, a sick kangaroo that showed up with its owner at the clinic one day. He told friends he'd never learned anything about kangaroos in Vet school, but treated it like other animals—a shot of penicillin. Under Republican governors Otis Bowen and Robert Orr, he served on the State Veterinary Exam Board, and often volunteered to serve as the veterinarian on duty at the Indiana State Fair.

Russ' family worshipped weekly at the First Presbyterian Church in Lebanon, and he soon assumed leadership in the congregation, first as a deacon, then an elder. Even in retirement he remained active in his congregation in Lebanon, and seasonally in Boynton Beach's Church of the Palms. In 1951, he joined the Lebanon Rotary Club, became its President in 1954-55, and attained thirty-five years of perfect attendance. He became a Paul Harris

Fellow, as did his wife Peg, daughter Judy, son-in-law Ron, grandson Brian, and son Ed. His other community interests included the 4-H clubs of Boone County, the American Legion, the Masonic Lodge, the Elks Club, the United Fund of Boone County, the former Union Federal Savings and Loan Association, where he served on the Board of Directors, and Ulen Country Club, where he was the oldest member and long-time representative on the Board of Directors. His Republican community and state leadership led Governor Otis Bowen to appoint him to the Indiana Natural Resources Commission, and Lebanon recognized his community leadership when in 1993, the 4th of July Parade committee selected Russ and Peg as honorary marshals. A sports enthusiast throughout life, "Doc" was a regular golfer into his nineties and prided himself on golf scores that in later years were normally lower than his age. Friends will also remember him as a competitive card player who loved gin rummy and bridge.

He served his home community and state in various ways. He served terms on the Lebanon City Council and the Lebanon School Board during the building campaign that led to the new high school. He attended Lebanon football and basketball games regularly, and was especially proud of the LHS swimming pool. His involvement with the Lebanon schools led to his selection for membership on and then presidency of the Indiana State Board of Education. His interest in education extended to higher education, where he sponsored Boone County students in need of financial assistance, and remained a dedicated alumnus of both Purdue and Kansas State Universities. At the time of his death, Russ was the oldest living member of the Kansas State Wildcats football program, and had received repeated recognition for this special status at both homecomings and bowl games. In July 2017, Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine recognized him as the recipient of its Alumni Recognition Award. In earlier years he represented Purdue University's Agricultural Alumni and its athletic booster club, the John

Purdue Club, on university trustee boards. Purdue's Alumni Association awarded him its Certificate of Distinction in 2018, and the Department of Animal Sciences awarded him a Purdue Lifetime Achievement Award the following year.

Dr. Hardin is survived by his beloved companion and caregiver Charlotte Long of Boynton Beach, Florida; his daughter Judy Brown and spouse Ron of San Marcos, Texas; their son Brian, spouse Stephanie and great-granddaughter Cambria of Metuchen, NJ; son Ed, spouse Nancy of Urbana, Ohio; and their sons John Hardin of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Paul, spouse Brittney and great-granddaughter Nora Ann of Delaware, Ohio and sister Helen Townsend of Hartford City, Indiana. All of his Townsend (Jay, Lisa, Mark, Steve and Allen) and Hardin (Tom, Joy and Peter) nieces and nephews are alive and now live across Indiana and the nation as do Charlotte's son Andy and spouse Connie of Arlington, Virginia; Charlotte's grandchildren Caitlin and spouse John, Michael, Nicholas, and Caroline, great-grandchildren Caroline and Roger, and Jean Green's daughters Sue and husband Jim, Judy and husband Kyle and their families.

Russell was pre-deceased by his wives Pauline Guise (Peggy) and Jean Green; his parents Fred and Mildred Hardin; his brother Lowell; sister-in-law Mary; and brother-in-law Wayne Townsend.

In lieu of flowers, Russ and his family request that memorials in honor of Dr. Russ Hardin be made to the Rotary Club of Lebanon Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 42, Lebanon, IN 46052; the Community Foundation of Boone County, 102 N. Lebanon St., Suite 200, Lebanon, IN 46052; or The Church of the Palms, 1960 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33444.

Visitation is planned from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, August 13, 2021, at Myers Mortuary, 1502 North Lebanon Street, in Lebanon, Indiana. Masonic

services will be held at 7:00 p.m. Funeral services are planned for 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 14, at the funeral home. You are welcome to view the service live stream on Myers Mortuary's Facebook page. Burial with military rites will take place at Oak Hill Cemetery in Lebanon.

Please join Doc's family for a light buffet at 12:30 p.m. at Ulen Country Club, 100 Country Club Drive, in Lebanon. Online condolences: www.myersmortuary.com.

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

935 East Washington Street
Lebanon, IN 46052

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 13. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Myers Mortuary
1502 North Lebanon Street
Lebanon, IN 46052
(765) 482-0620
office@myersmortuary.com
<https://myersmortuary.com/>

Service

AUG 14. 10:30 AM (ET)

Myers Mortuary
1502 North Lebanon Street
Lebanon, IN 46052
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Tribute Wall



“ *Russell "Doc" Hardin*

November 27, 2022 at 01:43 PM



“ *I enjoyed the gatherings we shared years ago with Doc and Peg. Doc was instrumental years later in helping my grandson participate in the junior golf program at Ulen. Mac even got a hole in one there. We liked him even if he wouldn't treat our hamster. He lived a full fun life. Ruth KeenanHillmer.*

Ruth KeenanHillmer - August 14, 2021 at 10:56 AM



“ *Doc was a pillar of the Lebanon community. He helped build the firm foundation Lebanon continues to grow upon. He will be missed. Rest in Peace, Doc.*

Matt Gentry - August 13, 2021 at 10:26 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Russell "Doc" Hardin.*



August 11, 2021 at 10:36 AM



“ *Condolences to the Hardin family. "Doc" will be missed. From all his friends at First Presbyterian Church, Lebanon, Indiana.*

Kitty Hill for First Presbyterian - August 10, 2021 at 03:09 PM

CW

“ Dear Judy, Ed, and Charlotte...and all your families,
We share in your grief with the loss of Doc. He was a great gentleman and will be missed by all. He was a good friend and an inspiration to many. Unfortunately, our weekend plans do not allow us to visit in person but please know that you all are in our thoughts and prayers. He was the epitome of a life well lived!
Love to all,
Chip and Mari Werry

Chip Werry - August 10, 2021 at 02:41 PM

KH

“ Dear Charlotte, Ed and Judy,
We are greatly saddened for you that Doc has been called home. We believe that he will be greeted with the chorus of a thousand Angels as he is welcomed by the laughter, shouts of joy, and embrace of those friends and loved ones since passed. Rejoice with the rapture of his soul as he looks upon the face of Jesus, takes His hand and is pulled into His embrace. Russ has finished his battle with this life and is now in a place of peace with our Lord, where there is no pain, no sickness, no sorrow. The pain and sorrow will now begin for those left behind to grieve and cope with the absence of our loved one. Our heart goes out to you and we are here for you, the family and other loved ones touched by your father's death. We pray for you, the comfort, strength and spiritual healing of the Holy Spirit be with you as this time of grief descends upon your hearts.
Joyce and Ken Hardin

Ken and Joyce Hardin - August 08, 2021 at 02:44 PM

PD

“ It was a privilege to work with Doc for many years. He taught me a lot besides veterinary medicine. I will always remember him.

Paul J Nordman DVM

Paul J Nordman DVM - August 08, 2021 at 01:07 PM

CM

“ With Doc Russell at a Purdue club function in south Florida around 2007. Great man, a life well lived. RIP Doc.



Carla Mast - August 07, 2021 at 07:13 AM

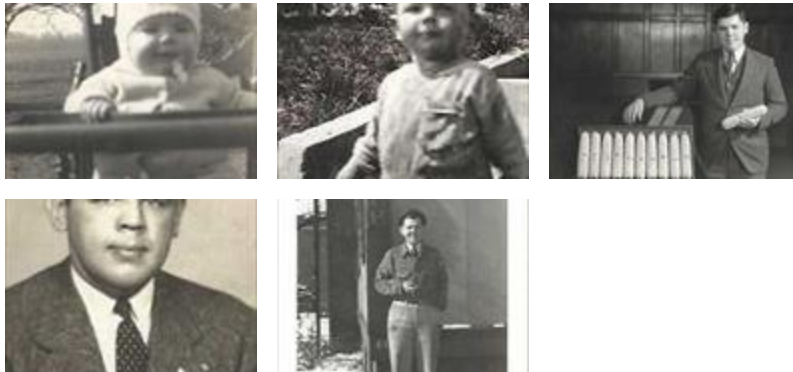
CM

Doc Hardin, sorry typo, can't edit!!

Carla Mast - August 07, 2021 at 07:14 AM

SH

“ 17 files added to the album Memories Album



Sandra J Hunt - August 06, 2021 at 10:23 AM

KL

“ *A life well lived. Condolences to his loved ones.*

Kathy Linton - August 05, 2021 at 09:36 AM

DR

Judy and Ed, DiAa (Limp) Riley here. Have known your family and Dad for 70+ years and want to send condolences to you both and your families on the passing of Doc. We had him as our Vet for many years. Mom worked for him whenever Louise would go on vacation. The office I especially remember was the one by the Lenox Mercury Dealership. Our family was friends a long time with your folks. Aunts and Uncles too! Prayers to you all. Love

DiAnn (Limp) Riley - August 07, 2021 at 02:07 PM

TF

“ *The Stuteville Family lit a candle in memory of Russell "Doc" Hardin*



the Stuteville Family - August 04, 2021 at 11:07 PM

MJ

“ *Michelle Kelley Jackman lit a candle in memory of Russell "Doc" Hardin*



Michelle Kelley Jackman - August 04, 2021 at 10:19 PM

SB

“ *Sally Byrd lit a candle in memory of Russell "Doc" Hardin*



sally byrd - August 04, 2021 at 06:02 PM

KG

“ *The Winfred Ginn family has many fond memories of Doc Hardin. We wish the family comfort at this time of loss. With our deepest sympathy, Daniel and Kathie Ginn*

kathie ginn - August 04, 2021 at 05:19 PM

FC

Servant of God and fellow man and animals. Friend to all !!! What a great friend 'Fred Chitwood

Fred Chitwood - August 06, 2021 at 07:52 PM

MR

A great example of a full and generous life, well-lived! Doc was always supportive and encouraging to me when I was a young vet in practice. He was "one for the ages."

Max Rodibaugh - August 12, 2021 at 07:48 AM

TR

Thoughts and prayers to the family. Doc lived a great life, he gave so much to others over the years. I loved that he gave me an invitation to his birthday party last year, he was so excited. What a legacy in our community.

Tami Richardson - August 13, 2021 at 03:35 PM