



James Walter Buchanan D.V.M.

January 15, 1935 - July 20, 2020

James Walter Buchanan, D.V.M.

He was born January 15th 1935 and passed away after a lengthy illness surrounded by family on July 20th 2020 at the age of 85.

Jim grew up in Jackson, Michigan and played drums for his high school marching band. He met his future wife Marolyn during summer band camp at Interlochen. After high school, Jim attended community college and Michigan State University where he played drums for the MSU marching band, including a trip to the Rose Bowl parade. Jim and Marolyn were married in 1954 just before he joined the Army. He was sent to Europe as a medic and played drums for his Divisional marching band. After his service, he returned to school and eventually graduated top of his class at MSU Veterinary School. In 1960, Jim accepted a research and teaching position at the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School and Hospital so they moved to Narberth, Pennsylvania and raised four children, becoming very active members of the community. Jim enjoyed singing with the Narberth Methodist church choir, sang the Star-Spangled banner at the Fourth of July fireworks, and led the carol sing-along at the Narberth train station for many years. He joined Indian Guides and was Scoutmaster with Narberth Troop 176. "Dr. B," as the scouts called him, took two crews out to Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico. He attended years of basketball games and musical concerts put on by his kids and grandkids. Jim remained a full Professor at the Vet School for over 40 years. He served as Department Chair for many years, publishing

numerous books, films, and articles on Veterinary Cardiology. His research interests bridged human and animal medicine, especially heart valve repair, transplantation, and artificial heart development. A library of his teaching films and slides can be found at <https://www.vin.com/library/general/JBintro.htm> He was able to take his family to Switzerland for a year-long sabbatical in 1970. There they trekked (and skied) throughout Europe in a pop-up camper while living outside of Bern in a small farming village. Over the years, Jim traveled all over the world giving lectures on his research findings and innovative cardiovascular surgical techniques. He was a innovator and pioneer, widely known as the first to implant a pacemaker into a disabled dog. Jim often hosted foreign students and veterinarians and helped develop Veterinary Cardiology as a new specialty. He became an active Emeritus professor at Penn and received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Michigan State University. In addition to music, Jim enjoyed photography and home repairs, loved to ski, travel, teach, and help others along the way. Jim was the loving husband of Marolyn (nee Cline) for 66 years; son of the late Walter Buchanan and Gladys Sterling; and brother of Helen Kelley. He was predeceased by his brother, Donald Buchanan and sister, Jean Buchanan. Jim was the loving father of Scott (Kay), Mike (Jill), Maureen, and Dan, and was the doting grandfather of Frankie (Melissa), Sara, and Anna Cucinotta. Numerous nieces and nephews also relied on his support. Jim and Marolyn recently moved to Independent Living at Simpson House in Philadelphia.

There will be a private family service scheduled at a future date. Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.chadwickmckinney.com In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to New Horizons Senior Center, P.O. Box 85, Narberth, Pa 19072 <https://www.newhorizonsseniorcenter.org/donate.html> or to the Friends of Penn Vet Fund <https://www.vet.upenn.edu/giving>

Philadelphia Inquirer Obituary appeared on Friday July 24, 2020 at:
<https://www.inquirer.com/obituaries/james-walter-buchanan-veterinary-cardiologist-penn-veterinary-school-surgeon-teacher-dies-died-obituary-20200723.html>

Tribute Wall

PD

“ How fortunate Children's Hospital was for many years when we got not only Marolyn, but JIM in the package for Pediatric Urology. John Duckett used to say that it was much more difficult to get admission to the VET School at Penn than to the Medical School, and there Jim surely shone, in his scholarship , leadership, care and inspiration! He even toured us all around the new Vet Hosp when it was completed, to become an influence on the construction at CHOP.

For all of us who grew to love him he became a part of the Pediatric Urology family and or ours! All the Ducketts were together at the farm this past month and remembered so fondly Jim around the fire like a Pied Piper with all the children sitting around, singing and looking up at him so wondrously. We did a special version of BINGO and Old MCDonald for the latest generation of three girls for Pace and three boys for Warner, in memory around the fireside.

We will always treasure the joy of knowing both the Buchanans and their fine family.

*My love to Marolyn with special thoughts for her at this time
As ever, Peggy Duckett*

Peggy Duckett - August 12, 2020 at 12:46 PM

CD

“ To Marolyn and all the family, Peter and Carole Darke send deepest condolences from the UK. When we first met Jim and Marolyn at an Austrian campsite, over 50 years ago, little did we imagine how many times our paths would cross in the interim! We will remember Jim as a superb professional role model, and a respected, much loved friend.

Sending kindest regards from Peter, Carole and Tanzy - a very stubborn ruby CKCS!

Carole Darke - August 10, 2020 at 12:06 PM

JB

“ Jim was a true legend in his field of veterinary cardiology, an innovator, a willing and thoughtful mentor, and a generally nice and interesting man. I was fortunate to meet him on multiple occasions and always enjoyed the opportunity. Dr. Buchanan will be missed by many. Sincerest condolences to his family - John Bonagura, DVM

John Bonagura - August 10, 2020 at 09:30 AM

NA

“ To Mike, I remember your dad fondly. Deepest sympathy to you and your family.

Nancy (Dean) Srock

nancy - August 06, 2020 at 08:51 PM

MB

Thank you Nancy.

Mike Buchanan - January 15, 2021 at 06:56 PM

CJ

“ I trained and worked with Jim 1977 to 1982. He was a terrific mentor and teacher. Jim always had a smile and encouraging word for students, coworkers and pet owners. I have always looked forward to seeing my friend at the ACVIM meetings. I remember a weekend at your cabin with Marolyn and Jim as Howard and I attempted to learn how to ski. We realized that was not a skill we could master, but had a wonderful time in your company. I feel blessed to have many fond memories. You are in our thoughts and prayers in this difficult time. With sincerest sympathy for your loss. Charla Jones & Howard Blatt

Charla Jones - July 29, 2020 at 05:13 PM

HH

“ We lived next to Jim and Marolyn for many years on Chestnut Avenue. One time Jim asked a favor to help him sneak a moosehead into the basement of the house. So we watched and when Marolyn went inside we signaled Jim who was holding the Moosehead and waiting on Maple Avenue. And sure enough Jim just walked right down the side of his house and in the basement door. This happened a long time ago and my memory may not be totally clear, but this is what I remember.

Another time our golden retriever managed to get his paw wedged underneath the chain-link fence. He was screaming like a stuck pig. Jim very calmly came over and assessed the situation and then he dislodged the dog's foot.

Another time the same golden retriever was hit by a car out front of our house. I was away and my wife Barbara went over and knocked on the Buchanan door, and Jim did not hesitate for a minute. He got up from his dinner table and came out to the street he helped Barbara put the dog into the car, and they both rode straight down the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary school. Barbara received VIP treatment since Dr. Buchanan was with us. We loved living next to Jim and Marolyn and their family for many years.

On yet another time the same golden retriever named MacDougal used to bark ferociously with another dog on the other side of the fence in our backyard. Then one day the other dog jumped the fence and MacDougal ran straight into Jim's basement. I believe Jim was in the doorway.

When we first moved here, we thought the Buchanan cats were very cute the way they would lay around on our patio outside. One day we brought the cat inside and then the next thing we knew we were getting little bites around our ankles. We started wearing knee-high boots around the house until we figured out that we had fleas from the cat. When I spoke with Jim he explained to me that they leave the cats out in the summer because of fleas. We send lots of love and fond memories from Hank and Barbara Holmes.

Hank Holmes - July 29, 2020 at 03:07 PM

JB

“ Jorg Bucheler purchased the Mrs. Fields Deluxe Sympathy Basket for the family of James Walter Buchanan D.V.M..



Jorg Bucheler - July 27, 2020 at 04:01 PM

JB

“ Jim started me on my career, cautiously reigning in a young hot shot, with humor, compassion, and understanding, as he has done to so many of our colleagues who then went out and became great academicians and clinicians, nationally as well as internationally. He was one of the true pillars of our profession, but also an example for us how to live our lives. Jim was always available and willing to help even with personal matters. He was one of the smartest I have ever met, brainstorming with him over radiographs when developing the vertebral heart scale was forming for my career. I will never forget him. My thoughts go out to Marolyn and the family.

Jorg Bucheler - July 27, 2020 at 03:18 PM

MM

“ We are so sorry to hear such sad news. Dr. Buchanan will be missed by all the members of the Delaware Valley Havanese Club; especially those of us who worked at our clinic with him. He was always so willing to be a part of our annual health clinic for dogs each year. He had even agreed to be a part of the clinic this year in October. He will be missed. We will think of him and will miss his friendly smile. We offer our deepest sympathy to his family.

Marylou Mitchell - July 24, 2020 at 02:11 PM

MB

“ Dr. B, as we called him, was one of my Troop's Scoutmasters. He was our Crew Leader when we went to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico during June 1979. He was a good leader and I will miss the fun times we had around the campfire. Knew all his 3 sons who were in the troop with me during the late 70's. My condolences to the family.

Michael Basch - July 23, 2020 at 02:00 PM

CB

Our thoughts and prayers to Marilyn and children. Jim played a large part in the lives of many of Narberth's children. He was a big part of our families Scout and Narberth family. He will be remembered!

Carol and Bruce Basch - July 23, 2020 at 02:08 PM

SC

“ Dr. Buchanan, his wife and Scott and Kay will always hold a special place in our hearts. Moving from Nebraska with a newborn baby, we had no home yet for our family of 3 and Labrador. My husband, Dr. Kevin Christiansen was starting his cardiology residency at PENN soon (2003) and we needed a home before we were able to move into our place. He welcomed us with open arms to his cabin with a gorgeous view. Dr. Buchanan, his wife, Scott and Kay were beyond friendly and comforting to this Midwest girl who had moved so far away from family with a new baby. Kevin talked so highly of Dr. Buchanan's mentoring and respected his immense knowledge. Dr. B was and will forever be known and remembered as a pioneer for Veterinary Cardiologists! He also had a generous caring heart. Our family was blessed to have known him and my husband is fortunate to have been trained by him. His son, Scott definitely takes after Dr. B with the huge heart too!

Stacey Christiansen - July 23, 2020 at 01:31 PM

VV

“ *I am saddened to read of Dr. B's passing.
He was part of the team that made Penn great.
He always treated me kindly
He allowed me and another Senior student to do a PDA surgery
under his watchful eye.*

Great Man. Great loss.

*Fondly
Victor Rendano VMD'72*

VICTOR T RENDANO VMD'72 - July 23, 2020 at 11:02 AM

HF

“ *Helena Luginbuehl and the Luginbuehl family
purchased the Love's Journey for the family of
James Walter Buchanan D.V.M..*



Helena Luginbuehl and the Luginbuehl family - July 23, 2020
at 05:56 AM

MK

“ *Mark D. Kittleson purchased the Serene Retreat
for the family of James Walter Buchanan D.V.M..*



Mark D. Kittleson - July 22, 2020 at 07:39 PM

SC

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



scott - July 22, 2020 at 09:29 AM

GE

“ *Jim was my mentor at Penn. He guided my interests to cardiac surgery and pointed me to my academic career. He even encouraged me to go to his alma mater. He has been honored here at Michigan State University in multiple ways. Even as a professor at Penn, he continued to support his old alma mater. Honored graduate, lectures and rooms here at MSU are named after him. His contributions to Veterinary Cardiology and cardiac surgery will be long remembered. My best to his family. I, the Veterinary profession, cardiologists world wide and his students will miss a true legend in our profession.*

George E Eyster VMD

George Eyster - July 22, 2020 at 08:46 AM

SC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Scott - July 22, 2020 at 08:42 AM

SC

Family Photo

Scott - July 22, 2020 at 08:44 AM

SC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Scott - July 22, 2020 at 08:18 AM

DB

“ We are so saddened by this news! Jim was a great friend, wonderful teacher and mentor, and superb role model, not just to me but all who spent time in the U Penn CCSU. In my role, at that time, as a cardiology trainee and Heart Station Clinician, I was enormously fortunate to learn from Jim and David Knight, and while that was a great professional experience, the personal friendship and care shown by those colleagues and their spouses meant so much to both of us. Our condolences and prayers go out to his entire family. Daryl & Sharon Buss

Daryl Buss - July 21, 2020 at 08:09 PM