



Phillip Lee Curry

September 2, 1945 - October 17, 2023

In Loving Memory

Phillip Lee Curry

1945 - 2023

Dr. Phillip Lee Curry, a devoted family man and a compassionate healer of countless furry companions, died after a short illness on October 17 in Orlando, FL at the age of 78. His journey—one of education, service, and love—is a testament to a life well-lived.

Phillip is survived by his wife Rita (Ireland), his two daughters Elizabeth and Catherine (Kevin), his two sons Jon and Joseph, as well as his grandchildren Evelyn, Caleb, and Caley.

Born on September 2, 1945, to John and Marilyn (Bauman), Phillip is survived by his sister Merilee, and preceded in death by his brother Jon.

Phillip was born in Bloomington, Illinois but grew up outside of Pittsburgh, PA. In his early years, he developed a commitment to sports and education, passions that persisted throughout his life. Whether the Steelers won or lost could break his heart like nothing else. He also found great joy in baseball and supporting the Pittsburgh Pirates. He loved taking his kids to college and professional football and

baseball games, and instilled in his children a love of the game that continues today, especially in his sons.

Phillip's early adult years were marked by a profound sense of duty and patriotism. He served in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1970, including a tour of duty in the Vietnam War. He exemplified the courage and sacrifice of his generation, receiving an American Spirit Honor Medal in basic training and going on to work in military intelligence.

Upon honorable discharge, he embarked on an academic journey that would lay the foundation for his lifelong career in veterinary medicine. In 1972, he earned his Bachelor of Science from Illinois State University. Driven by his passion for animals and a desire to make a difference in their lives, he pursued his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Illinois and graduated in 1976.

Dr. Curry's career in veterinary medicine was nothing short of exceptional. He began his professional journey in Louisville, KY, bringing his expertise and compassion to the care of animals. He continued his practice in Illinois for two decades, and in 1997 brought his talents to the Sunshine State of Florida. In Central Florida, he worked tirelessly as a practice owner, associate veterinarian, and relief veterinarian at numerous clinics in the Orlando area, leaving an indelible mark on the lives of both pets and their owners.

Notably, Dr. Curry dedicated seven years of his life to the SPCA of North Brevard, where his tireless efforts and expertise were acknowledged when he was voted the Best Veterinarian of Titusville in 2013. His surgical skills were nothing short of remarkable, performing tens of thousands of surgeries of all kinds over the course of his career. From soft tissue to orthopedics, there was nothing he couldn't or wouldn't do.

Determined never to retire, his love and drive for veterinary medicine was unwavering. In 2014, he fulfilled his dream by opening his fourth and final veterinary practice on the east coast of Florida, where he continued to care for the beloved pets of Titusville, bringing comfort and healing to countless animals in need. Although it took longer than he expected, his dream of watching one of his children follow in his footsteps happened when Catherine became a veterinarian in 2017; she continues his legacy of compassion and care for animals. In Titusville, he also saw another life-long dream fulfilled when Rita and Elizabeth worked side-by-side with him at the clinic.

His love of animals did not stop at the clinic door. Phillip had ten dogs, fifteen cats, two birds, a rabbit, and several hamsters over the course of his life. He frequently brought home baby wildlife found by concerned clients and would nurse them until they were healthy enough to be released outdoors. At his passing, his dog Oliver, cat Lily, and office cat Mew live on—all of them rescues.

His devotion to his family, and his unwavering love and kindness will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. He leaves a significant imprint on this world, and his memory will be cherished by family, friends, colleagues, and clients who loved him dearly.

A celebration of Phillip Curry's life will take place on Wednesday, October 25 from 4pm – 6pm at DeGusipe Funeral Home in Maitland, FL. Friends, family, and all who were touched by his kindness and compassion are welcome to join in honoring his memory. There will also be a burial service at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in early November; the date is to be determined.

Previous Events

Public Visitation & Reception

OCT **25**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory
9001 N. Orlando Avenue
Maitland, FL 32751
<https://www.facebook.com/DeGusipeFH/>

Tribute Wall

SH

“ *Dr. Curry saved lives.
I will miss his salty comments and gentle compassion.*

Stephanie Hansford - January 15, 2024 at 10:57 AM

ML

“ *I worked with Dr. Curry in Bloomington, IL.
I learned so much from him about all aspects of veterinary care and how to treat animals and people as well. He challenged me to learn new tasks every day and never doubted my ability to do them, even when I was sure I would fail. He saved countless animals by providing treatment regardless of compensation, for pets and strays and abandoned animals. He volunteered with numerous shelters, humane societies and rescues to provide care, vaccinations and spay/neuter programs. He made the world a better place for so many souls.*

Maureen Landers - December 05, 2023 at 10:47 AM

IN

“ *Deepest sympathies to all family and friends. This wonderful man was the finest vet I've ever had the pleasure of meeting. He was incredibly knowledgeable and compassionate beyond belief. He would provide services pro bono for those who were struggling "for the pet." He was a true treasure in the Titusville community and will missed more than will ever be known.*

Insulationman - December 01, 2023 at 09:55 AM

ES

*Deepest condolences to the family of Dr Phillips he saved the life of my dog Chooper twice . God bless your soul and rest in peace. Thanks for all your love and care to our pets. Your legacy couldn't be in better hands now . Thanks for that too. You will be missed.
Elizabeth S.*

Elizabeth Sandres - December 01, 2023 at 11:04 PM

CS

*“ Dr Curry was a great vet he loved our fur babies. He was an animal lover whose heart touched many ❤️ hearts of the furry babies and their people parents. It is a great loss and their will never be another Dr. Curry. May he rest in peace with are father.
I know he will always be missed and cherished for his caring of our fur babies. Until we and our fur babies b ies meet you again Dr. Curry.*



Christie Stacey - November 05, 2023 at 03:22 PM

CS

“ Christie Stacey lit a candle in memory of Phillip Curry



Christie Stacey - November 05, 2023 at 03:14 PM

MA

“ So very sorry to hear this we were away and had no idea, just was there with our 3 dogs and talked with him before we went away, Such a nice person And very caring we will miss his kindness . Heartbreaking ❤️ The Ames family.

Mike and carole Ames - November 03, 2023 at 07:16 PM

JI

“ I am so saddened to hear of the passing of Dr Curry. He was an awesome doctor and individual. He will be greatly missed. My deepest condolences to his entire family.

Jeanne Isbill - October 26, 2023 at 03:36 PM

LS

“ Our condolences to Dr. Curry's family. He was our pets veterinarian. He always had a smile on his face. He will be missed.

Lena Shuaib - October 26, 2023 at 09:56 AM

DO

“ We're new to the area, but based on recommendations chose to take our cats to Dr Curry. Only met him the one time but it was obvious he was a very kind and caring man. So sorry for his family, friends, and staff.

D Lynn O'Neil - October 25, 2023 at 04:32 PM



“ Ghirardelli Galore Gift Tin was purchased for the family of Phillip Lee Curry.



October 24, 2023 at 10:54 PM

SD

“ *Our cats loved seeing Dr. Curry! He will be so missed.*

Stephanie DiFrancesco - October 24, 2023 at 08:05 PM

NG

“ *Our deepest condolences. He was an amazing Dr and individual. Always ready to service our pets and answer questions with no hesitation. Spent ample time with our fur babies..will be terribly missed..may he Rest in Peace..*

Nilda

Nilda Gonzalez - October 24, 2023 at 07:42 PM

RH

“ *Lori and I are very sorry for your loss of Dr. Phillip Curry. Condolences and prayers for the family and caring co-workers. Richard Hooker*

richard arthur hooker - October 24, 2023 at 07:33 PM

KR

“ We are so saddened over the loss of our dear veterinarian friend, Dr. Curry.
He was a very good doctor to our fur babies, Angelo and Finley, and helped us so much. He was so smart and loved what he did.
We will miss him and feel his loss.
We are thinking of all of his family, work family, and all who loved him.
Thank you Dr. Curry for all the love you showed us and our dogs.
We imagine you had a beautiful heavenly welcome from all your furry friends.
You are missed.
God bless.
Kathy & George Rose

Kathy Rose - October 24, 2023 at 07:16 PM

JC

“ What a loss to the community. He was the only vet our furbabies knew! I am sure he is on the other side of the rainbow Bridge.
Taking care of all the pets thar have gone before us.

Jan and Lourdes Cary - October 24, 2023 at 04:38 PM

DD

“ I was so very sorry to hear the sad news about dear Dr. Curry. He was so kind and compassionate and helped me deal with the passing of my beloved pets. And he , and his staff, were kind enough to work with me as I tried to get some strays spayed/neutered. I could not have asked for better service and help.
My heartfelt condolences to Dr Curry's family, friends, and all who loved him (incl the terrific office mascots!). He was a blessing to our community. He will be missed very much. I speak for us all when I say: job well done, sir. RIP.
Donna Davis

Donna Davis - October 24, 2023 at 04:22 PM

DH

Dr curry was wonderful we have a very old girl taco dog she is missing a foot and gets around fine a few years ago she started getting temors on her chest he cut them of about 3 years in a row and we know she had cancer.But the temors have stopped and she been doing fine.We all was worried she wouldn't make it.But I am thankful that Dr curry and praying everyday she has survived.I pray Dr curry has a special place with Jesus in heaven with all the animals that went ahead of him.Thank you Daniel and Maria Herlinger

Daniel and maria Herlinger - October 25, 2023 at 10:42 PM

PA

“ *Condolences and prayers to the family of a very kind and caring man. He will surely be missed. RIP Dr. Curry.
Love from Patricia, Churro, Chico and Luke*

Patricia - October 24, 2023 at 04:08 PM

JG

“ *So sorry for the loss of Dr. Curry.
Condolences and prayers for the family and love ones. We will miss you Dr Curry.*



Jenny Griffin - October 24, 2023 at 03:30 PM

PS

“ *May flights of angels sing Dr. Curry to his rest. We will truly miss our wonderful vet. His love and compassion for our furbabies was above and beyond the best! May God bless his family.*

Patricia and Philip Shimer - October 24, 2023 at 02:59 PM

GG

“ I’m so sorry for our loss. He was a great vet for my furry babies. We will miss him!

Gretchen A. Gonzalez - October 24, 2023 at 02:43 PM

EB

“ So very sorry to hear about the loss of Dr. Curry. We first met when he was at the SPCA in Titusville and I was quite upset when he left there and then more than pleased when he opened the Animal Care Clinic. Dr. Curry was so very kind to my cats - and to me - through and at the end of their lives. And again with my current rescue. His gentle caring meant so much and he will be sorely missed.

Ellen Brouillard - October 23, 2023 at 09:07 PM

CG

“ What a tremendous loss to the pets and their owners in Titusville. What a sweet man, he will truly be missed. So very sorry for his family's loss.

Caroline Griffin - October 23, 2023 at 07:41 PM

TF

“ So sorry. You will be missed

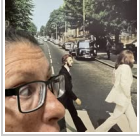
Tom / Sandy Fernstrom - October 23, 2023 at 07:29 PM

RD

“ Dr. Curry always was kind with our Rosie. He made her feel comfortable and asked how was she doing. He will be missed.



Richard Margie Dailey - October 23, 2023 at 02:24 PM



“ *Dr. Curry was the most relaxed, peaceful vet around! My kitty was always at ease with him. He is missed already.... I'm sure he's up over the rainbow bridge now, playing with all those precious pets he'd served in this life.*

Erin Hoelscher - October 23, 2023 at 11:40 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Phillip Lee Curry.*



October 23, 2023 at 10:59 AM



“ *My heart is broken. So, hard to hear about Doctor Curry passing. He was such a blessing to the Bigos family and our fur babies (Abby, Trooper, Maggie, Dixie and Peyton). His passion for helping will always be remembered and never taken lightly. My deepest condolences to all of his family.*

Tammy Bigos - October 23, 2023 at 10:39 AM



“ *He was a wonderful Veterinarian. He cared deeply for the animals he treated. He was kind and gentle soul. My heart breaks for the loss, and I will forever miss him.*



Cynthia Leugers - October 23, 2023 at 10:05 AM

AG

“ Dr. Curry was such a big part of our life with our pets. He was always available and would be such a calming presence when one of them was sick.

He helped us through so many rough moments when we had to say "goodbye" to our elderly pets. Such a sweet man and a beautiful soul. Our lives will always be changed by his compassion and love for animals.

Sincerely,
Amy and Kevin Gray and Phoebe, Finley, Alfie

Amy Gray - October 23, 2023 at 09:24 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Phillip Lee Curry.



October 22, 2023 at 06:18 PM

SG

“ Dr. Curry was a special vet who took time for sick or dying animals, no matter how busy his office was. I manage 2 cat shelters & he was there many times to help very sick cats cross over the rainbow bridge on the most humane way possible...even if it wasn't one of his patients. I first met him at the SPCA and was very sad to see him leave...but extremely happy when he came back to Titusville to open his own practice. I feel honored that he & his wife adopted Lily from me. Rest in peace Dr. Curry...you will be missed by more people & animals than you can imagine.

Sandy Goad, Space Coast Feline Network

Sandy Goad - October 22, 2023 at 06:06 PM

JB

“ My husband and I were new to Dr. Curry’s practice after moving to Titusville in 2021 with our cat Jinx. I immediately knew I was at the right practice after walking in the door for our first appointment. His friendly staff greeted us promptly. The office atmosphere was warm and kind. Shortly after arrival we were taken to an examination room Dr. Curry came in and introduced himself. He was soft spoken and gentle with Jinx. I knew I had come to the right practice.

Our sincere condolences to the entire family, he will be remembered and missed by all.

Sincerely,

Mike, Jeri & Jinx

jeri Blanco - October 22, 2023 at 05:32 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Phillip Lee Curry.*



October 22, 2023 at 02:26 PM

ME

“ Memories go back to early 60’s when we all met at ISU, Phil the wrestler. Rita was my very best friend as teens. Then we scattered to other states and back again to IL. Eventually living on the same street Budig Dr. watching the Curry children grow. I remember once Jim Levesque help assist emergency C-section. He was in awe, wanted to touch them. Phil yelled, don’t break the field. Phil, the photographer.

Some great memories.

Hugs to the family. ❤️

Mary Fern

Mary Fern Estes - October 22, 2023 at 02:21 PM



“ Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Phillip Lee Curry.



October 22, 2023 at 12:54 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Phillip Lee Curry.



October 22, 2023 at 11:31 AM