



Merrill Price Irvin, DVM

February 9, 1948 - March 12, 2020

Merrill P. Irvin, DVM, 72, a long time resident of Charleston, SC, passed away peacefully on March 12, 2020 his Tallahassee home after a brief illness.

He will be dearly missed by his wife Regine Kraft, brother Leon Irvin (Lorraine) and twin sister Sherrill Barge (Joe), his nephews Chuck Irvin, Andy Irvin, Mark Barge and niece Mary Joe Barge.

He was preceded in death by his parents Price and Odelle Irvin of Pinecliff Community in Camilla, GA.

He grew up in Camilla, GA on his parent's farm where his early love for animals began. In order to pursue his dream he moved to Athens, GA where he earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1973. Most of his 43 years working as a veterinarian he spent in Charleston, SC where he founded multiple veterinary clinics throughout his career.

His passion of nature photography took him to many places, both far and near, around the world.

Quiet in spirit, creative, patient and a life-long learner, he inspired and encouraged everyone he met. During his lifetime he touched many lives, both four-legged and two-legged.

A private memorial service is planned for the family at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of him can be made to the Center for Birds of Prey, PO Box 1247, Awendaw, SC 29402.

Susie Mozolic of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements. (www.bevisfh.com 850-385-2193)

Tribute Wall

DL

“Merrill was my cats’ veterinarian for years. I had one rescue who was so difficult that it was all Merrill could do to get her annual vaccinations in her. After one especially challenging visit, he stood back and said, “Cats are basically wild animals that consent to live with us.” We both loved Africa and big cats. He was truly one of a kind.

Donna LaBrasca - April 12, 2020 at 09:48 PM

LO

“What an incredible human being. He stood beside (both literally and figuratively) for some of the most difficult moments in my life. So patient and kind. He was the voice I trusted when it was time to say goodbye to my cat and I was a 1000 miles away. I was also given the incredible gift in my professional work to film Dr. Irvin operate on an eastern screech-owl. The bird had a broken wing and he was sharing his time and talent with the Center for Birds of Prey. The eastern screech-owl is a very small raptor. Most people think they are baby owls. Their bones are tiny and hollow. Fine. Delicate. To witness Merrill mend that wing was truly amazing. To know he gave that wild bird another chance to fly free was beautiful. Fly free Merrill and thank you for sharing your amazing and beautiful self with this world.

Liz O - March 23, 2020 at 08:53 AM

CS

“ I read the notification of Dr. Irvin’s passing in the Charleston Post and Courier. My experience with Dr. Irvin was about 20 years ago when I adopted a dog that ended up needing extensive surgery. I will never forget his caring and quiet nature when he explained the issues to me and also reassured my daughter, who was quite young and concerned about her four legged friend. He was so very compassionate and genuine. I’m certain there are many clients who have similar stories. My heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

Colleen S - March 20, 2020 at 01:30 PM

BM

“ An amazing photographer and gifted veterinary surgeon, he contributed so much to creatures great and small. Very sorry to hear of his passing. I can imagine that he was welcomed over the rainbow bridge by the animals he helped along the way, and is photographing them all.

Becki McSwain - March 18, 2020 at 08:01 AM

WP

“ So sorry to hear about the passing of Merrill. I did not know him well but enjoyed a wonderful week with him, Leon, Ray, John, and Carl in the Anthracite valley of Colorado. He kept us entertained with his stories and was a good companion on the long walk out of the mountains.

Wade Pierce - March 15, 2020 at 03:16 PM