



Francis (Fran) A. Kallfelz

July 17, 1938 – April 5, 2023

Francis (Fran) A. Kallfelz born July 17, 1938, in Syracuse, New York, son of Alois and Josephine (Honold) Kallfelz, and brother to Joseph A. Kallfelz, died peacefully on Wednesday, April 5 with family at his side.

Fran was born and raised in Syracuse, New York, graduating from Most Holy Rosary Parochial School and LeMoyne College. During the summers at Lemoyne, he completed his farm practice requirement and matriculated to the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. Fran graduated with distinction in 1962 and embarked on a Ph.D., and courting Leonie Heidi Gantner, Cornell '63. Despite the substantial distraction, he was successful at both. Fran and Heidi were married in 1965, and Fran earned his Ph.D. in 1966.

Fran then joined the Cornell faculty, continuing his research in the areas of clinical nutrition, mineral metabolism, metabolic diseases of domestic animals and veterinary nuclear medicine. His impactful work included a Fulbright Scholarship at the University of Zagreb and posts at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria and Indonesia overseeing studies on mineral metabolism in farm animals. Fran's studies resulted in several hundred publications in diverse areas of scientific investigation. Fran's regional and national leadership in areas related to animal nutrition were distinguished by his work with the National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council Subcommittee on Nutrient Requirements of Dogs and Cats that established the definitive resource for commercial diets, research, and regulatory oversight. He served as a founding Diplomate and President of the American College of Veterinary Nutrition, President of the American Academy of Veterinary Nutrition, President of the Executive Board of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society and was a member of the Council on Education of the American Veterinary Medical Association. He also served on the New York State Board for Veterinary Medicine.

At Cornell, Fran's warmth, intelligence, sense of humor, collegiality and commitment were widely appreciated by colleagues, staff, students and postdoctoral fellows. For over 10 years, he served as director of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital and in 1997 was named The James Law Professor of Medicine and Nutrition, a distinction awarded to a select few faculty since its inception. Retiring in 2009 as The James Law Professor Emeritus, Fran served as a counselor for Cornell pre-med students. During his career, Fran's teaching and mentorship inspired generations of clinical veterinarians and academics, many of whom traveled great distances to honor him with a retirement symposium highlighting his ongoing impact on the scientific community. Fran was a gentle, kind and generous man who loved deeply.

In his younger years, he enjoyed playing handball, gardening, camping, hiking, coaching several youth sports teams, and entertaining the neighborhood dogs. Fran's intellect, warmth and generosity were felt by many, and his life was enriched by the dear friends, professional colleagues and students with whom he shared his life and experience.

Post retirement Fran and Heidi continued to share travel adventures with family and treasured friends. Fran especially cherished his poker club, his gourmet group, and the Ithaca City Club. He was passionately committed to his Catholic faith, his family, learning and discovery, plants and animals, and cocktail hour. He was a devoted husband, loving father and wonderful grandfather. His amazing sense of humor, twinkling blue eyes, sharp wit, and generous spirit were some of his most signature traits.

Fran is survived by his wife Leonie Heidi (Gantner) Kallfelz, three children, Andrew Kallfelz (Julie) of Jamestown, Rhode Island; Susan Kallfelz VanderMeer (Thomas) of Manlius, New York; Douglas Kallfelz (Cory) of Warren, Rhode Island; and seven grandchildren, Emily and Eliza Kallfelz; Frances, Camille and William VanderMeer; and Otto and Max Kallfelz. In addition, he is survived by several cousins, nephews and nieces. He is preceded in death by his parents, Alois J. and Josephine Kallfelz, and his brother Joseph A. Kallfelz.

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