



## John M. "Doc" Cheney

August 22, 1930 - February 5, 2015

Beneath the shadow of the Rocky Mountains John "Doc" Cheney peacefully passed on February 5, 2015. Born to Howard and Johanna Cheney August 22, 1930, Dr. Cheney, lived in Estes Park as a child and graduated from Estes Park High School. He worked for Steads Ranch and was a horse wrangler for tourists. He spent 4 years in the US Air Force, received his Bachelors of Science degree in 1958 from Colorado State University (CSU), and went on to complete his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine and Masters of Science degrees at CSU. He was on the veterinary staff at CSU from 1960 to 1964 before pursuing private practice in Benkelman, NE for two years and spending a year as a research veterinarian for the Monsanto Chemical Company. Research was his passion and the focus of his career. In 1967 he was recruited by CSU to be on a veterinary team in Nairobi, Kenya as Colorado Chief of Party. Dr. Cheney took his wife and two daughters on a 5 year journey to Kenya where he, along with staff members from 4 other countries taught at the veterinary college in Kabete, Kenya and was instrumental in the development of a DVM degree program and numerous improvements in the livestock sector in Senegal. Besides the many friends he made through his experience in Kenya, Dr. Cheney and his family had the opportunity to enjoy numerous safaris on the African plains and visited many countries in Europe and Asia. Upon returning to the United States, he took a teaching position at CSU in the School of Veterinary Medicine as head of the Parasitology Section in the Diagnostic Laboratory and became known to faculty, colleagues and students as "Doc." He gave more than 42 years of service to CSU, retiring in August of 2005.

Throughout his life, he enjoyed woodworking and gardening and was an active member of the Republican Party.

Dr. Cheney was the President of the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association from 1986 to 1987, and was a member and held the office of President with the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, and the Larimer County Stockgrowers Association. Doc was an active member of the Larimer County Fair and Rodeo, assisting with the testing of 4H animals, serving on the Fair Board, and being an avid supporter of the Larimer County FFA and 4H Junior Livestock Sale. In 2004 Doc received an award from the Larimer County Fair Association for 14 years of dedicated service and in 2005 was the Grand

Marshall of the parade. Other notable awards include Colorado Veterinarian of the Year in 1988, Outstanding Veterinarian Award in 2002 from the Larimer County Veterinarian Medical Association, the Carl Norden Pfizer Distinguished Teachers Award in 2005 from Pfizer Animal Health, and the Lifetime Membership Award from the Larimer County Stockgrowers Association in 2009.

Dr. Cheney leaves behind his brother Robert Cheney (Lois), daughters Karen Hancock (Sam), and Dianne Cheney, granddaughter Aspen Hancock and grandson Dillon Hancock, nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, along with some four legged grandchildren and hopefully many herds of healthy cattle that benefited from his research.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel of the Allnutt Funeral Home, 650 West Drake Rd, Fort Collins Colorado. The family invites guest to join them following the service for light refreshments. In lieu of flowers, please send donations in memory of "Doc" Cheney to the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, 8833 Ralston Rd, Arvada, CO 80002.

# Comments

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“ Karen/Dianne: John was a colleague I always enjoyed interacting with regardless of the subject. He was well versed and respected. He and I would laugh about the fact we operated in an arena of "We may be wrong but we were not in doubt". I will always remember his sense of humor. My sympathy for your loss. Unfortunately I am out of town the day of the memorial of I would be there to celebrate the life of a man that made a huge contribution to our profession. Del Miles

**Del Miles** - 21 hours ago

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“ My family knew John as "Doc Man" - the name given to him by my children who loved seeing him. I met John when he and I served on the Fair Board. I was his vet assistant when a steer bloated or some other animal issue arose. My years on the Fair Board with John are full of memories of his sly sense of humor and wonderful stories. My daughter was due a week after Fair and Doc had his OB kit ready for me - shoulder high gloves, lube, calf puller - and reminded me daily that I should not worry and that he could deliver that baby if needed! He was part of my children's lives through their 4-H years and part of mine through my work with veterinarians and CCA. Thank you for sharing such a special man with us.

Rob, Kathie and Justin Riley

**Kathie Riley** - Yesterday at 10:39 AM

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“ Doc Man was a very special friend of my family. I knew him since day one...literally. My mom would tell me stories of when she was pregnant with me at Larimer County's Fair and Doc Man would put on his shoulder high gloves for a "precaution" just in case I would decide to make my appearance. He touched so many lives through his teaching. I will miss him dearly.

**Katelyn Sanchez** - Yesterday at 07:24 PM

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“ Dr. Cheney was an informative instructor of whom you could tell he had miles of information and experience behind each answer he gave to questions we asked. It was only after I graduated from CSU and became involved in CVMA that I learned of his work outside of CSU. My condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues. Marguerite Flett CSU 1989

**Marguerite Flett** - February 13 at 07:01 PM

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“ Dr. Cheney was one of my favorite teachers during veterinary school. He always had a smile as he shuffled through the hallways and his lighthearted demeanor made you feel comfortable in his presence. He will be missed.  
Jennifer Delaney, class of 2005

Jennifer Delaney - February 13 at 02:38 PM

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“ John was one of those teachers that was a mentor to many of us. Common sense approach and one I have admired since. It was a pleasure to have worked with him over the years with CVMA and CSU.  
Steven Benschmidt, CVM, Class of 1980

STEVEN Benschmidt - February 13 at 02:24 PM

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“ David M. purchased a sympathy card for the family of John M. "Doc" Cheney.



David M. - February 10 at 12:09 AM

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“ Karen - my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.  
Kacy Thompson  
Lund, Sweden

Kacy Thompson - February 08 at 04:09 PM