



## Roger L. Lukens

June 25, 1941 - May 12, 2015

Roger Lee Lukens, 73 of Medicine Lodge, KS died Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at his residence. He was born on June 25, 1941 in Alva, OK the son of the late Dale G. Lukens and Marjorie (Baier) Lukens. On December 26, 1962 he married Patricia "Trish" (Wood) Lukens in Medicine Lodge, KS. She survives.

Roger was Valedictorian of Rural Grade School and of his Senior Class of 1959. He graduated Cum Laude of the 1966 class in Kansas State University School of Veterinary Medicine. In 1969, Roger began teaching at Colby Community College setting up the Animal Health Technology program. In 1975, he accepted a position at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana where he became Assistant to the Dean of Veterinary Medicine and Director of the Veterinary Technology program. He pioneered the veterinary technology programs at Colby Community College and Purdue University.

Dr. Lukens attended the Father's House of Worship, Sun City, KS. He was a member of the Medicine Lodge Lions Club, the Medicine Lodge City Council, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), and the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA).

Surviving, in addition to his wife, Patricia "Trish" Lukens are four children, Natalie Heinstein of Albuquerque, NM, Derek Lukens of Topeka, KS, Melissa Lukens of Wichita, KS, & Alan Lukens of Colrain, MA; five grandchildren, Elke Heinstein, Matthew Heinstein, Gavin Knoll, Adam Lukens & Alex Lukens; three step-grandchildren, Preston Mallett, Makenna Mallett & Andy Sweeney; one sister, Kaye Kuhn of Medicine Lodge, KS.

Visitation will be on Friday, May 15, 2015, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., with family present from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Larrison Funeral Home, 120 E. Lincoln, Medicine Lodge, KS 67104.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the United Methodist Church, Medicine Lodge, KS with Pastor Tom Walters officiating. Burial will be at the Lodi Cemetery, Union Chapel Area near Medicine Lodge, KS.

Memorials may be made to the Medicine Lodge Lions Club or Freedom Gates Boys Ranch, Hazelton, KS in care of the funeral home.

Condolences may be left at [www.larrisonmortuary.com](http://www.larrisonmortuary.com)

# Comments

---



“ I first met Dr. Lukens when I was a young upstart veterinarian in the late 70's. I truly appreciated Dr. Lukens mentoring involving the veterinary technology field. Dr. Lukens was a pillar of support to the Association of Veterinary Technician Educators at a time when the field was in its infancy. When difficult decisions had to be made he offered a balanced position and support. He was extremely knowledgeable and a great educator! His enthusiasm and smiling face is greatly missed.  
Karen Hrapkiewicz, DVM, MS, DACLAM

Karen Hrapkiewicz - May 19, 2015 at 09:19 AM

---



“ Dr Lukens was always very kind to me. During my work service at Purdue I had this Recorder, pear wood, very nice instrument but I was awful playing it, no matter how much I practiced -- I used to practice at lunch or for a while after work on a concrete bench under a tree near the Vet Tech admin office and he would come by occasionally and talk. Years later when I was a senior tech at Pfizer he sent me a letter offering his full support if I wanted to go to Wayne State and attempt to get certified as a vet tech in their part time program. I could never work out the time constraints and do my job.  
He seemed to know more about me than I realized. Such a busy man, but though I never went through his program at Purdue, or ever got certification, he knew what I accomplished with my work related to the field, definitely at Purdue and I think even at Pfizer. He didn't need to follow my career. I believe that was a cornerstone of his life - putting others first, generosity and support.  
I still have the very nice letter he wrote which I believe would have gotten me into any vet tech program in the country.  
This man will be missed. The world needs more men and women like him.

Robert Burke - May 16, 2015 at 03:40 PM

---



“ Roger was a second father to me during my time at Purdue. He then became a friend and mentor as I became a veterinary technician educator. I will always be grateful for the love shown to me by Roger, Trish and Melissa. He was truly one of the best, and his death leaves a great void.

Kelly Lockerman - May 16, 2015 at 07:42 AM

---



“ My sweet Grandpa will be greatly missed within our family. He had so much knowledge and stories that I always looked forward to hearing. I will forever live on in your name and do all my future endeavors in your honor. I love you so much Grandpa!

Love your granddaughter,  
Elke Heinstein

Elke Heinstein - May 15, 2015 at 02:52 PM

---



“ I pray for Roger and his family. Roger left a legacy behind and touched many peoples hearts (and their pets as well). God bless.

Scott Keller

Scott Keller - May 15, 2015 at 11:18 AM

---



“ Dr. Lukens was always an "icon" of the Veterinary Technician program at Purdue. Well respected and liked by all. I'll always remember his long memos and little notes he left in mailboxes at school. He always inspired me to be my best. A great mentor.

Chris Stringfellow, RVT. Class of 1991.

Chris Stringfellow - May 15, 2015 at 10:27 AM

---



“ Dr. Roger Lukens was a visionary leader in the veterinary profession. From his early days leading the Veterinary Technician Program at Colby Community College in Colby, Kansas, throughout his long career in building and leading the program at Purdue University, and in his leadership of related activities at the national level he was always the calm voice of reason with a clear vision of, and strong commitment to, expanding and improving the profession of Veterinary Technology. He was a valued colleague and friend to everyone who had the privilege of working with him. It was both a personal and professional pleasure to be associated with him and his family. Condolences to Ms. Lukens (Trish) and all of his children. He will be fondly remembered and sorely missed.

Billy E. and Janice J. Hooper  
Purdue University

Billy Hooper - May 15, 2015 at 09:41 AM



“ Dr. Roger Lukens will forever be remembered as one of the true pioneers of the profession of Veterinary Technology. We would not be where we are today without his guidance, leadership and tireless efforts. I am one of the many who are fortunate enough to have called him a mentor, friend and colleague. He was directly responsible for giving me the opportunity to join the Purdue family in 1994, something I will never forget, and always be grateful for, as it was the most fulfilling experience of my professional career. His contributions to Veterinary Technician education were more than significant. A true pioneer, leader, mentor, friend and advocate and for me an honor to have known and worked with him over the years. A great loss for our professional family. Rest in peace old friend.

Bill Wade, LVT, RLATG, CPIA  
Duke University

William L Wade - May 15, 2015 at 06:36 AM

---



“ Dr. Lukens was an amazing man and his smile warmed a room! He will be missed by many and I am thankful for having the opportunity to have known him while in the vet tech program at Purdue. My sympathies to his family. Jessica Coonce RVT

Jessica Coonce - May 14, 2015 at 06:35 PM

---



“ Dr. Lukens was a wonderful man, doctor and mentor. He influenced and impacted so many lives. He will be missed.

Aimee Anglin Graves - May 14, 2015 at 05:03 PM

---



“ I met Roger when i was just entering Veterinary Technician Education as an assistant professor at SUNY Delhi about 1983 or 1984, He was leading the charge for better recognition and better pay for technician across the country. Roger will be truly missed as a technician educator, advocate and leader in the fight for recognition of technicians as the professionals they are! Thank you Roger for being a friend, mentor from afar and helping me become a 33 year veteran of Technician Education. You certainly were one of a kind.  
Rest easy my friend!

Melvin C. Chambliss, DVM  
Director  
Veterinary Technology Program  
Alfred State College

**Mel Chambliss, DVM** - May 14, 2015 at 04:04 PM

---



“ I had the pleasure of being in tech school at Purdue while Roger was there. He was a teacher and mentor to us all. But, he was truly more than that; he was there to see us through all aspects of both our professional (his job) and personal (his passion) experiences in veterinary medicine. I feel honored to have known him and am grateful that I was given the opportunity to learn from him. To his family....may you find peace with the knowlege that he touched the life of every person who was ever in his presence. God bless you all.

**Amy Koch BS, RVT** - May 14, 2015 at 01:29 PM

---



“ Natalie, Having worked at the Vet School Pharmacy for many years I had the pleasure of knowing your Dad and your sister when she was in Vet School. He always had a smile on his face and a kind word for everyone. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this difficult time. Rose Stingley

**Rose Stingley** - May 14, 2015 at 12:13 PM

---



“ Dr. Lukens retired when I was in school but my class was lucky to still have him there part-time. He was a sweet, lovable man. It truly is a loss to everyone who knew him. I feel honored to be able to say that I learned so much from him.



Amy Peterson - May 14, 2015 at 12:02 PM

---



“ As a graduate in the first class of the associate and bachelor programs, I will always remember Rog as a visionary and yet father figure for many students. His gentle ways of working through the ups and downs of young women moods and trials was amazing.

What a great mentor and leader.

Rest well Rog. My thoughts and prayers are with all the family and friends.

Becky Bierman - May 14, 2015 at 10:13 AM

---



“ Trish and family -

My heart aches at the thought of Roger's passing. Please give each other a huge hug for me. My thoughts and prayers are truly with you.

I was blessed to have been Roger's secretary at Purdue's Vet Tech Program for many years. He was everyone's rock --- the go-to guy. Rog was intelligent and professional yet was so very down to earth. He had this awesome way of making everyone feel comfortable, welcome, and important.

Roger was kind, gentle, loving, jovial, understanding, and had the patience of Job. His passion for life and learning was evident every time he walked through the office door with that big grin on his face. And oh, what a sense of humor he had.

I will sure miss getting his long, newsy letters. To say that he liked to talk is an understatement. What an interesting man. He always had something great to share.

Rest peacefully Dear Roger, in your new "home on the range" in God's great sky. You and our Lord will undoubtedly have many interesting and entertaining conversations

With sincere love and respect,

Barb Kirts (and husband Bob)  
Brookston, IN

**Barb Kirts** - May 14, 2015 at 09:10 AM



“ To Kaye, Trish, Natalie, Melissa and all of Roger's family, I can't tell you how sorry I am to learn of Roger's passing. I feel like there's a great big hole in the world that I must attempt to fill with my memories . There will be no other great man who could possibly fill his boots. Roger and I were "country kids" who shared twelve years of schooling, including 8 years in a one-room schoolhouse. He was SO smart, as well as kind and patient and so many other good things and I cherish and respect the memories of our friendship. Go with God, old friend - affectionately,Linda Dunson Packer

**Linda Dunson Packer** - May 16, 2015 at 12:38 PM

---



“ Roger was a mentor and advocate for all those with whom he worked. He was a quiet leader and served as a remarkable bridge to bring together those having very diverse ideas or philosophies to work towards a common goal. He was passionate about lifting others up and allowing them to achieve their full potential. And he did so in a positive and never judgmental way. Patient. Caring. And always willing to laugh at your joke no matter how bad it was. He will be missed by all those students and colleagues whose lives he touched, molded, and shaped over the years. Rest easy, Rog.... it was a life well lived. Pete Bill, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana

**Pete Bill** - May 13, 2015 at 04:24 PM



“ Roger will be missed by many and remembered by all who he had contact with. Early a good judge of plants, land, and livestock. An International Land Judging first place. Always a quiet support and very knowledgeable person. Could drive Ford tractor precisely thru the 4-H tractor driving contest year after year better than the competition. Thanks for the good memories of growing up in the Union Chapel area as my friend. R. Wayne Thompson

**R. Wayne Thompson** - May 13, 2015 at 09:31 PM



“ Sorry to hear of Roger's passing. Always enjoyed our visits, at the saddle shop, when he came to see family. He will truly be missed. Jeff Keller.

**Jeffery Keller** - May 13, 2015 at 09:44 PM



“ A wonderful man, friend and colleague. He will be missed.

**Dick Goebel** - May 14, 2015 at 09:47 AM



“ To the family of Roger Lukens.

From the first time I met Roger until my retirement in 2005, I always enjoyed our brief times together. He was a friendly, unassuming and quiet man with a firm sense of what he was doing and what he wanted to get accomplished. When I became the VCS Department Head and we had meetings together, I appreciated his thoughts and astute comments on all subjects that were discussed. He was the right man for the right position at the right time and brought the Vet Tech program along until it became nationally recognized. In 1998, his daughter and mine (Dee Dee) graduated together from the Veterinary College. Thus, we had good times talking about our daughter's futures and how proud we were of them.

I extend my deepest sympathy to all family members. May God's love sustain you during this time of loss of Roger.

Kirk Clark

**Dr. Kirk Clark** - May 14, 2015 at 10:16 AM



“ Roger was one of the most sincere and faithful Christian men I have ever known. His ego laid at Christ's feet and his warm smile and eye to eye contact was appreciated by all who knew him. He always encouraged me in my ministry even though he did not attend my church. I pray peace, comfort and blessings be upon his family as they know his "sure and certain hope" in Christ Jesus will be rewarded!

Pastor Dale Thiele

**Dale Thiele** - May 14, 2015 at 11:01 AM



“ There is no doubt that Roger left his mark on the veterinary college at Purdue University. He also was a huge reason that registered veterinary technicians are seen as the skilled, scientific professionals that they are. He led the charge for a more rigorous training program and was a huge advocate for RVT's becoming an even more important part of the veterinary team. His knowledge of food animal practice was invaluable in understanding that the RVT could play a much more significant role in food animal practice.

I was lucky enough to have Melissa come out to my practice in Iowa for part of her externship and seeing her father in her was a real joy.

May God bless your family as you know that Roger was such a influence on so many lives.

Mark Hilton

**W. Mark Hilton** - May 14, 2015 at 12:13 PM



“ Natalie  
how sorry I am to be in contact with you after all these years in this manner. I am so sorry to learn of your father's passing. I knew him as a quiet and gentle man. Traits that I remember you having as well. I pray for you and your family.

Julie Byers

**Julie** - May 14, 2015 at 03:04 PM



“ Such a kind and compassionate man. I can still remember him calling me personally to tell me I was accepted to the RVT program. As a 40 yr old non-traditional student he knew it was a dream for me and he was excited for me. He was truly missed when he retired and will be missed even more now. God Bless the Lukens family and thanks for sharing him with us.

**Toni** - May 14, 2015 at 03:23 PM



“ He was a great mentor, teacher, director, friend, and a great man for Veterinary Technology. He helped me through some tough times.

**Jeff** - May 14, 2015 at 03:30 PM



“ Roger was a great friend and colleague from the early days of veterinary technician education. Starting back when it was still not recognized as the important adjunct to veterinary practice that it now is, Roger fought many of the battles for recognition. He was patient, kind and through. A wonderful person and one that I feel very happy to have known. Douglas McBride, DVM, New Paltz, NY

**Douglas McBride, DVM** - May 14, 2015 at 04:40 PM



“ Sending condolences to the family. He was a wonderful teacher to every student. He made us all feel special. He truly taught us lessons we would not have learned without him. I have met other students from other programs and know that the program your father perfected is by far the best. Purdue Veterinary Technician class of 1992. Andrea Selner-Amor

**Andrea Selner-Amor** - May 14, 2015 at 05:35 PM



“ Dr Lukens was a friend and a mentor for many years at Purdue. His thoughtful guidance allowed students, faculty and staff to develop into leaders. He will be missed

**Kay Knox** - May 14, 2015 at 09:04 PM



“ We are missing Roger so very much! He was a true servant of the Lord and a man hungry for the things of God! We loved the bible studies held at Roger and Trish's house. He always greeted others with a smile and you felt loved!! We love you Trish and are praying that you feel the Lord holding you at this difficult time!

Gary and Toni Dyke

**Gary and Toni Dyke** - May 14, 2015 at 11:08 PM



“ Roger Lukens life is to be celebrated as a mighty warrior for righteousness. He was successful in life as a man that follow hard after the heart of God. The Lord rejoices over His child, welcome home, my good and faithful servant. Roger is alive and well! Psalms 116:15 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.  
May you remember that He fought the good fight, He finished the race, he kept the faith. Our hope is that we will see Roger again in glory, and be reunited. This is our sure hope and confidence in the promises of God. Roger will be greatly missed by many that love and respected him.

Our deepest prayers and thoughts are with you, Trish and your dear family.

Pastor Deitra Black and The Father's House of Worship Congregation

**Gerry and Deitra Black** - May 15, 2015 at 11:14 AM



“ Dr. Likens was a Great leader of the Vet. Tech. Program. The Purdue program was truly one of the Best nation wide! It was an Honor to graduate from the class of 1979. Prayers be with you!

**vickie horsley** - May 16, 2015 at 09:33 AM



“ Teacher, mentor, advisor, colleague and dear friend - we may never see the likes of Roger Lukens and his dedication and devotion to our Veterinary Technology profession in our lifetime. It was a privilege and honor to learn from him not only about how to be a competent veterinary technology professional, but even more importantly how to be a compassionate and caring human being and animal advocate.

He will be sorely missed.

Our thoughts and prayers to Roger's family~

Dan & Jamie Walsh, West Lafayette, IN

**Jamie & Dan Walsh** - May 16, 2015 at 01:13 PM



“ I am so embarrassed and sorry that I sent yesterday's message in my name only. It should have included my sister's name, Jan Dunson Goodson. She also has so many happy memories of happy times at Dry Creek School with Roger, that smart and sweet boy who grew up to be such an exceptional man. Jan and I share a deep sorrow at his passing. With respect and affection, Jan D. Goodson & Linda D. Packer

**Linda D Packer** - May 18, 2015 at 11:54 AM



“ I didn't know Roger well, but am very happy that he was a member of the "Garten Family" and came to several of our family reunions. He was always very nice, and a real pleasure to talk to. He will be greatly missed.

Bonnie Garten-Shaffer

**Bonnie Shaffer** - May 19, 2015 at 03:47 PM



“Dad, its taken since 2015 to write this. You rescued me from so many things. You were a mentor I didn't know i had. You taught me so much i didn't know i needed to know.

You followed me and took instruction like a vet tech, like when we changed the transmission in that Chrysler Cordoba. You had no idea what we were doing, but you put your confidence in me, that felt good, and you followed directions, and did what i did. I was only 15, and you trusted me.

We got that 250lb monster out and the new one in. When i cut my knuckle open, you said i needed to go to the ER, i said later, and wrapped it in electrical tape. I think i got that instinct from you. When we propped the new transmission on a small floor jack you were uneasy. I said just keep back and your hands out of the way, and you followed me not understanding how i knew what i was doing. You didn't know i had done this several times before by myself.

Like the first time birthing a calf, you followed me, you trusted me. Like the letter i read where you said you trusted Jesus!

We got it up, and the bolts in place, and it was like a miracle to you. Average day to me. I understand now that i was 15 then and 47 now, and there is a world of difference. But the difference was also in attitude, you were willing to dig in when you knew nothing about it because you loved me. You were always willing to dig in to something new, that's what was great about you. I inherited the same service attitude from you.

I hope i can live up to your legacy in some way, when i read of all your accomplishments, i know the only thing i can do is follow Jesus and help others the way he made me, like you did.

I love you Dad, i miss you and I'm afraid there will be a hole in my heart till I see you again. Thanks for helping and bailing me out so many times.

Your Son

**Alan Lukens** - April 09, 2019 at 02:54 PM