



## Donald A. Homer, Sr.

August 20, 1935 - February 5, 2020

Donald A. Homer, Sr., 84, husband of Mary (Hamilton) Homer, of Audubon, Pennsylvania, passed away on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 in the Meadows at Shannondell, surrounded by his loving family. Born on August 20, 1935 in Franklin, Massachusetts, he was a son of the late Lottie (Bent) and Carl I. Homer, Sr.

Growing up and throughout his life he had a passion for agriculture, farming, and giving back, which was shown through his activity in the Boy Scouts and the 4-H Club. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout, and later served as a delegate to the International Boy Scout Jamboree in Valley Forge, PA. During his years with 4-H, he served as a delegate to the National 4-H Club Congress in Washington DC and received many accolades while discovering his lifelong passion for animals. He also met his lifelong love and future wife of 61 years where together they formed a successful 4-H Club in Rhode Island.

He graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst where he studied Animal Husbandry. He also received additional certifications from Penn State, Florida State and Michigan State Universities. After graduation, Don volunteered in the AirForce before managing several cattle farms in various states across the US. He then joined Peggy and David Rockefeller's three-farm operation for over 30 years.

Continuing his passions, Don was a founder of the Simmental Breeders Sweepstakes in 1985 and served on many Boards including the American Simmental Association, the Muscoot Farm, the Westchester County Agriculture Farm Land Protection, the Westchester-Putnam-Dutchess County Farm Bureau, the Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Westchester County, and the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture.

Don took pride in his family supporting them in various ways. He spent many hours searching for Indian arrowheads in Georgia with his children and in later years attended his grandchildren's sporting events and activities. Most importantly, Don was a wonderful husband, father, father in-law, grandfather, uncle, godfather and friend.

In addition to his loving wife, Don is survived by his children: Barbara A., wife of Ray Zulauf, of Beekman, NY, Don Jr., husband of Debbie Homer, of Sleepy Hollow, NY and Melinda K., wife of Jim Fink, of Royersford, PA; and six grandchildren: Shannon, Ray, David, Jarrod, Alex and Michael. He was preceded in death by his siblings: Florence M. Call and Carl I. Homer, Jr.

Funeral services will be held privately at the family's request. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Donald's name to Green Chimneys, [www.greenchimneys.org/give/](http://www.greenchimneys.org/give/) or Puppies Behind Bars, [www.puppiesbehindbars.com/tribute-cards-and-memorial-gifts/](http://www.puppiesbehindbars.com/tribute-cards-and-memorial-gifts/). Arrangements are being handled by the Campbell - Ennis - Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc., Phoenixville, PA. Condolences may be offered online at [www.PhoenixvilleFuneralHome.com](http://www.PhoenixvilleFuneralHome.com).

# Tribute Wall

SP

“ I met Don in Kansas when he brought Peggy Rockefeller's Simental bulls to be tested at My Bull test station for Gain ability he was a wonderful man he was a joy to be around every time I visited the Rockefellers ranch in New York he showed me a wonderful time and was very gracious one day there Peggy and I watched President Reagan landing in the yard in the presidential helicopter by the barn and go in the house to have lunch with them we talked about baseball cards and animals a lot one day he sold me some 1949 baseball cards of the Yankees and I have them to this day he always loved his family deeply and he loved animals as I do we had much in common and I know how much he will be missed by his family and I will miss visiting with him may he rest in peace with Jesus and have a great time in eternity until I can be there to to visit with him again May God bless his family and keep them all healthy if any of his family can provide me a phone number I would love to talk to his wife my cell phone number is 316-200-0747 or my email is S PIERCE 49@yahoo.com

Steven Pierce  
Towanda Kansas

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Steven Pierce - April 24, 2022 at 09:22 AM



“ Don was one of kind. We will never forget his unique, no nonsense way of commenting on or addressing an important situation. He was a tireless supporter of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County as a Board member and beyond that role. He truly understood the importance of Cooperative Extension both in New York State and nationally. In addition, he was just a great guy.

*Our deepest sympathies and thoughts go out to his family.*

*Jerry Giordano  
CCE Westchester County*

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**Gerald G.Giordano** - February 10, 2020 at 02:05 PM



“ Don, was a class act and a real gentleman was a pleasure to work with. Rest in Peace my friend. God Bless. Al Ciprello

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**Al Ciprello** - February 10, 2020 at 08:46 AM

MB

“ My favorite memory of Uncle Don is from the annual summer visits we three Welch kids would make, starting -- as I recall -- the summer that Aunt Mary and Uncle Don married. We SO looked forward to those visits! I remember Uncle Don lifting me up so that I could touch the nose of the mounted head of his prize cow which won national 4-H awards, that hung in the living room right over the fireplace in -- as I far as I can remember -- every home they lived in and, as the story is told, travelled in the passenger seat, right next to Uncle Don, each time Aunt Mary and Uncle Don moved to a new farm manager position, from Massachusetts, to Cumberland Rhode Island, to the Great Lakes region of New York. I remember his humor -- sometimes corny -- always evident. We cousins feel so lucky that he was our Aunt Mary's sweetheart and therefore OUR inspiring uncle, a real-live cowboy-farm manager who went from single-handedly growing and harvesting the hay that he would then feed to the cows and the cattle he was raising for market, to managing the Peggy and David Rockefeller farm-estate where he established a national model breeding program for prize Simmental cattle. And a great, wonderful husband, father, uncle, grandfather, person.

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**MariBeth Welch Brainerd** - February 07, 2020 at 11:12 PM

BG

“ Sad to hear of your loss. Don was well respected and loved by the Unadilla, GA community during his management of Calderone-Curran Ranch. Prayers for comfort.

Love,

Jack & Barbara Gaston

Clay & Lisa Kernell

LaRae & Austin Humphries

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**barbara Gaston** - February 07, 2020 at 01:51 PM

MF

“ *I love you and miss you, dad. Always in my heart...forever* ❤️

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**melinda fink** - February 06, 2020 at 10:22 PM