

Ralph E. Brunner

Ralph E. Brunner, age 79, of rural Monroe, died on Tuesday, December 25, 2018 at his home.

Ralph was born on September 18, 1939 in Monroe, the son of Ernest and Lorraine (Crouch) Brunner. He graduated from Monticello High School in 1958 and married Barbara Jensen on October 3, 1964 at the East Clarno Zion United Methodist Church.



Ralph started farming with his father as a kid. He was also interested in the cattle and showing, starting his herd with a few Registered Brown Swiss that he showed at the fair. In 1956, there was a special one, Bubbles, that was Grand Champion at the County Fair and top blue at the State Fair and continued to excel from there. In 1972, he purchased his first Holstein heifers forming the nucleus for what would become one of the most well-known and respected herds in Green County, which led him to have one of the top rolling herd averages & BAA's in WI – surely one of the elite herds in the nation. In addition, Ralph (Barb) raised and showed World Champion Paint Horses on their Monroe farm for over 50 years. Ralph (Barb) was inducted into the inaugural class of the American Paint Horse Association Hall of Fame. Ralph and Barb were named two of the top 25 most influential individuals in the Paint Horse industry for their contributions in breeding, promoting, and improving the Paint Horse breed. They were also honored as founding members of the Wisconsin Paint Horse Club. Ralph also enjoyed coyote hunting with his dogs and close friends, playing cards, shooting trap, & spending time with family.

Survivors includes his wife Barbara (Jenson) Brunner of Monroe; daughter Jennifer (Brunner) Disch of rural Monroe; son-in-law Dave Disch of rural Monroe; grandchildren Brittany and Carsyn Disch; nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; and a sister Nancy Schwartzlow.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, January 3, 2018 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Newcomer Funeral Home, 1329 31st. Avenue, Monroe. A memorial fund will be established for the UW Carbone Cancer Center in Ralph's name. Condolences may be shared at www.newcomerfuneralhome.net.