



## H.D. "Dick" Sumner

July 21, 1931 - February 17, 2024

Dr. H.D. "Dick" Sumner passed away, peacefully, in his home on February 17, 2024, at the age of 92.

Dick was born on July 21, 1931 in Brooklyn, New York, the only child to Dr. Irving Emerson & Erna Margaret Sumner. They relocated to Carmel, California where he spent most of his childhood. While active in multiple sports, rocking the piano at school events and working on a cattle ranch up the Carmel Valley, he was most frequently found fishing or free diving for abalone off the Carmel coastline.

Upon graduating from Carmel High School, he served our country in the Korean War. Like so many of his friends, he did so with honor and courage. Following his service, he returned to Carmel and married his high school sweetheart and the mother of his three children, Patricia Ann Timbers. While working and raising a young family, he achieved his Masters in Fisheries Parasitology from Humboldt State, followed by his doctorate in Veterinary Medicine at UC Davis, and moved to Yreka in 1964. He joined and later owned Yreka Veterinary Hospital. He was known to have a rugged bedside manner with both small and large animal owners but was entrusted by all, and importantly the animals he cared so deeply for. He was a renowned orthopedist and equine practitioner in the region. From a colleague, "- a legendary DVM who was decades, perhaps generations, ahead of his time in his practice of veterinary medicine." During his career, his profession was a 24/7 on call role, but Dick made time for outdoor activities with his family:

backpacking, skiing, fishing, gold mining, and annual hunts for deer and elk locally and in Eastern Oregon. His wife Patricia preceded him in death in 1976.

In his later years and retirement, and with the love and companionship of Roz, Dick found a softer side with the two enjoying their mutual love of music, the arts and outdoors. As Roz reflects, "What a force of nature." She unselfishly encouraged all phases of his art - as a pianist, a distinguished [world record holding] fly-fisherman, a gifted photographer and a gifted craftsman. Again from a colleague, "He was a perfectionist to the core, whether it was expectations of himself, his family, his friends or his professional colleagues. He wanted things done right, from fly fishing to placement of the hand above the piano keys- it had to be correct." His interest in fly-fishing led to a mastery of the craft of rod construction and finally some of the most exquisite of rods, the butts of which were composed of exotic woods and turned on his lathe. This interest in wood working led to his fascination with and craftsmanship of furniture that can be found throughout the North State.

Dick's mantra- "There is no bad day fly-fishing". If not on the water testing a new fly pattern in a quiet game of catch & release, you would find him in his workshop crafting items as he shared lessons and stories with his children and grandchildren. He was their teacher- crusty, impatient, open minded in learning to excel in every aspect of life, an open and sometimes painfully unfiltered communicator- a gift to them. He learned from his students: his beloved grandkids. Just this past fall, Dick evaluated several young horses for gait and confirmation soundness while Facetiming with his granddaughter, all the while lamenting, "If I had only had computers and technology like this when I practiced medicine!" Then ordering, "Spin him to the left again, faster." In addition to being a US Marine and Korean War Veteran, Dick was a founding director of the Living Memorial Sculpture Garden, a Board Member of the Klamath Fisheries Task Force, founding member of Trout Unlimited, a community volunteer as veterinarian for the Siskiyou Golden Fair and local 4-H Clubs, a distinguished member of the American Association of Equine

Practitioners and a proud member of the National Rifle Association.

Dick is survived by his current wife of 40 years, Rosalind Sumner. His 3 children; Scott (Kim) Sumner, Susan (Blair) Hart, Shannon (Terry) Salvestro . 2 Stepchildren; Josh (Jen) Newton, Nancy (Paul) Bloom 5 Grandchildren; Travis (Erika) Salvestro, Nick (Ashley) Sumner, Zach (Kayla) Salvestro, Alexandra Hart, & Eric Sumner. 5 Step Grandchildren; Madeline, Ella, & Parker Bloom, Ryan & Shaun Newton and 7 great grandchildren.

~Devoted Husband ~Beloved Father ~Epic Grandpa ~Cherished Great Grandpa ~ Loyal Friend & Mentor ~Force of Nature Forever in our hearts...

Expressions of sympathy can be made to benefit Madrone Hospice Inc.;  
[madronehospice.org](http://madronehospice.org) 255 Collier Circle Yreka, CA 96097

No services are planned at this time.

# Tribute Wall

GD

“ I first met Dick when I went in to pick up a dog that had belonged to a friend & could no longer care for it. She had to be spayed & the Friend had taken her in & I was there to pick her up! Well Dick was beyond furious because the dog had been over fed & had no exercise & he being the caring guy he was, was beyond the pale over the poor care she had, had! Susan, his daughter who was working there at the time told him the history & he settled down! Then we began talking & soon discovered that we, his former wife & I had all attended the same school in Carmel. Not at the same time, but it was quite a classroom, built in the 1800's out of stone with a fireplace & French windows in 3 walls. It was like something out of a fairy tale! We became fast Friends & he, of course became our Veterans for years! He was an impossible act to follow! A good man & a good Friend to many! He is sorely missed!  
Gypsy DeLaLuz

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**Gypsy DeLaLuz** - March 02 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ What a kind & loving Boss & veterinarian  
& delight to be around  
Prayers to all his families Dr. Summer will be so well missed &  
remembered ❤️

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**Susan Bigham-Lanning** - August 08, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ I'm so sorry to read of Dr. Sumner's passing. For many years, Dr. Sumner took excellent care of our family's dogs. One of our dogs, a Cocker Spaniel named Dusty was with us on a hike. Crossing a log bridge, Dusty fell between logs into a creek bed. On that weekend day, Dr. Sumner did surgery to repair Dusty's shattered hip. His direction to us was a soft pillow bed and a bottle of Jack Daniels - for dad! Remembering Dr. Sumner gratefully for the care of our dogs.

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**Jan Wells** - March 09, 2024 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ Hi Everyone

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**Mavis Jane** - February 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ ❤️❤️❤️ RIP DOC 🐾💕🐾🐾💕🐾  
You touched many lives

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**Christina Hamel** - February 25, 2024 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ He would come out and vaccinate our cattle and my mom always had a great home-cooked lunch for him afterwards. Great memories, great doc.

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**Ruth Simpson** - February 21, 2024 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ Sending my condolences to the entire family. I met Dick for the first time my freshman year of college when I came home for Thanksgiving with my friend, Nancy. I remember his handshake was firm, like a big bear claw, and he was who he was, gruff but with a twinkle in his eye. He welcomed me into his home and you could see why he and Roz made such a good team!

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Anita Torrano - February 21, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Thinking of you Roz...he was one 'find' man!! He will certainly be missed!! Take care❤️

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Judy Grensted - February 21, 2024 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ What a character he was. You could always learn something from Doc and he liked telling you about what ever he was doing. Our love and prayers to all his family. He'll be missed

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Tracy Louie - February 20, 2024 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Girdner Funeral Chapel

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A Memorial Tree was planted for H.D. "Dick" Sumner - February 20, 2024 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ Wonderful Vet and kind man!

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Elizabeth Stewart - February 20, 2024 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ ❤️❤️❤️

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**Donna Kleaver Thompson** - February 20, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ *Allan's worked with him at the Vet Hospital for years. They were pretty good friends.* 💕💕💕

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**Charlene Barry Jones** - February 20, 2024 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ *Best vet ever. He'll be missed.*

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**Maureen Thomas** - February 20, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *He was a tremendous influence in our community as well as his family legacy he leave behind.  
Rest in Peace Doc!*

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**Carol Hockaday Forneris** - February 20, 2024 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ *One wonderful man*

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**Bob Schultz** - February 20, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *Roz, I am saddened by your loss.* 💔

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**Charlene Broce** - February 20, 2024 at 12:00 AM