

## **Dr. Charles Marion Cocanougher DVM | 1932-2016**

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Dr. Charles Marion Cocanougher DVM

Prominent Decatur business and civic leader Dr. Charles Marion Cocanougher DVM, 84, died Friday, March 25, in Decatur.

Funeral is 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 30, at the First United Methodist Church in Decatur with the Rev. Brian Bosworth officiating. Private burial is at Oaklawn Cemetery.

Cocanougher was born Jan. 11, 1932, in Decatur to Marion and Lucille (Stallings) Cocanougher. He married Jo Ann Gary Aug. 28, 1954, in Fort Worth.

Cocanougher graduated from the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine in 1955. He was a member of the Corps of Cadets and played the trumpet in the Fighting Texas Aggie Band. He was voted Who's Who on campus at Texas A&M, and in 2010, Dr. Cocanougher received the "Outstanding Alumni Award" from the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine.

He started his veterinary practice in Decatur and then was called into military service and served in the United States Air Force as a captain and base veterinarian. He was also in the Air Force Reserve.

Cocanougher started a manufactured housing park, Meadow Lake Village, and Decatur Self Storage. After his retirement from his veterinary practice, he continued to manage those two businesses.

Cocanougher was an active member of his community and his church. He was a lifelong member and held many leadership roles at the First United Methodist Church in Decatur and was president and rodeo secretary of the Wise County Sheriff's Posse for many years.

Cocanougher was instrumental in founding the Decatur Public Library and served as a board member for many years. He served on the Decatur City Council and was a past president of the Decatur Chamber of Commerce. He was instrumental in bringing the Poco Graphite manufacturing plant to Decatur.

Cocanougher was named Decatur Citizen of the Year in 1985. He was a member of the Decatur Rotary Club and past chairman of the Wise County Appraisal District. He was also past chairman of the Wise County chapter of the American Heart Association.

Cocanougher served on the board of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association and was a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Education and mentoring were important to Cocanougher. He created and funded a National Honor Society Scholarship at Decatur High School in memory of his aunt, Faye Cocanougher. He was a past president of the Decatur Eagle Athletic Club and a lifelong fan of Texas Aggie sports.

Cocanougher and his wife also supported Texas A&M Veterinary Medical School students by endowing several scholarships through the Texas A&M Foundation. Both served on the Texas A&M Veterinary School Development Council.

Cocanougher was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Jo Ann Cocanougher of Decatur; sons Gary Cocanougher and wife, Susan, of Decatur and Scott Cocanougher and wife, Alison, of Shelbyville, Tenn.; daughters D'Ann Moore and husband, Mark, of Dallas, Beth Short and husband, David, of Tyler and Mary Kay Battaglia and husband, John, of Madison, Wis.; 11 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Pallbearers are Benjamin Moore, Matthew Moore, Austin Battaglia, Alex Battaglia, Autumn Battaglia, John David Short, Charlie Short, Blake Cocanougher, Ethan Cocanougher, Chris Anne Cocanougher, Elizabeth Irons and Kyle Irons. Honorary pallbearers are James C. Richards, Ed Cooper, Dr. Hal Reese, Arnie Deaton, Lee Larson and Raymond Galvin.

Memorial donations may be made to the First United Methodist Church of Decatur or to the Decatur Public Library.