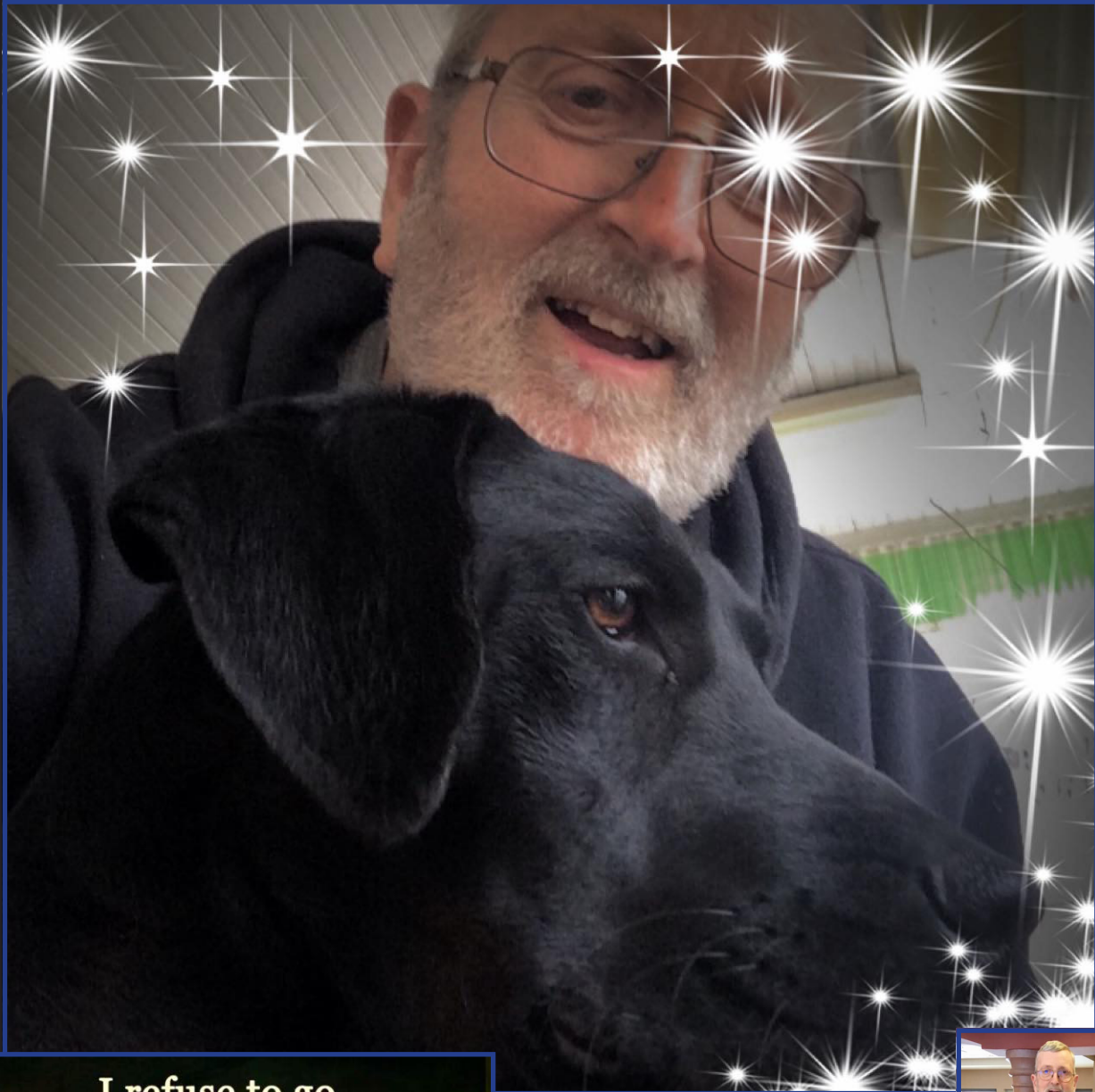


In Memory
John Foster Potter
July 18, 1948 - September 21, 2021



**I refuse to go
through life explaining
myself and defending my
decisions to everyone. This
is my life. I am going to
live it my way.
No apologies, no regrets.**



For My Brother

"Go on sis - write about me,
do me one of your Ode's!
I know a lot is 'X' rated
So you'll have to write in code!"

Now, let me see, where to start
The beginning is always a safe bet,
But you've always been a bit of a 'Doolittle',
I think I'll start with the pets.

JOHN:

DOT:

John was always very partial to dogs, and he seemed particularly fond of black dogs, although his Labrador breeding included all colors. But his favorite Lab was Shadow (p.1).



When John finally parted with his Dexter herd, he kept the few white cows (different breed) not only for their genetic potential, but especially because he loved to see cattle out in the pasture.



John especially loved birds. He could identify any Michigan bird by its song and/or shape. One time Mom went out of the house to try to locate a bird whose song she knew well but hadn't seen very often, only to find her son tweeting as he walked along the driveway.



"I am looking for friends. What does that mean -- tame?"

"It is an act too often neglected," said the fox. "It means to establish ties."

"To establish ties?"

"Just that," said the fox. "To me, you are still nothing more than a little boy who is just like a hundred thousand other little boys. And I have no need of you. And you, on your part, have no need of me. To you I am nothing more than a fox like a hundred thousand other foxes. But if you tame me, then we shall need each other. To me, you will be unique in all the world. To you, I shall be unique in all the world..."

"People have forgotten this truth," the fox said. "But you mustn't forget it. You become responsible forever for what you've tamed. You're responsible for your rose."

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, quote from The Little Prince



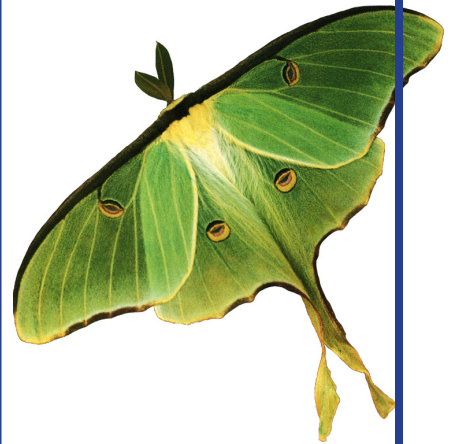
"...But my rose, all on her own, is more important than all of you together, since she's the one I've watered. Since she's the one I put under glass, since she's the one I sheltered behind the screen. Since she's the one for whom I killed the caterpillars (except the two or three butterflies). Since she's the one I listened to when she complained, or when she boasted, or even sometimes when she said nothing at all. Since she's my rose."

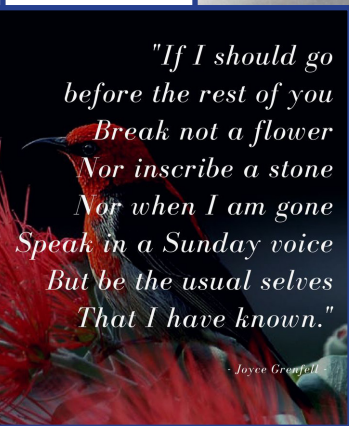
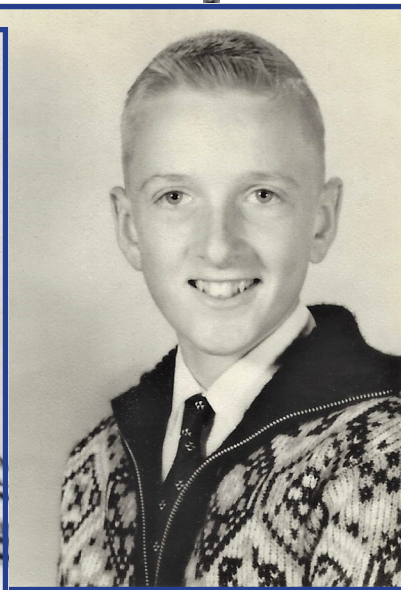
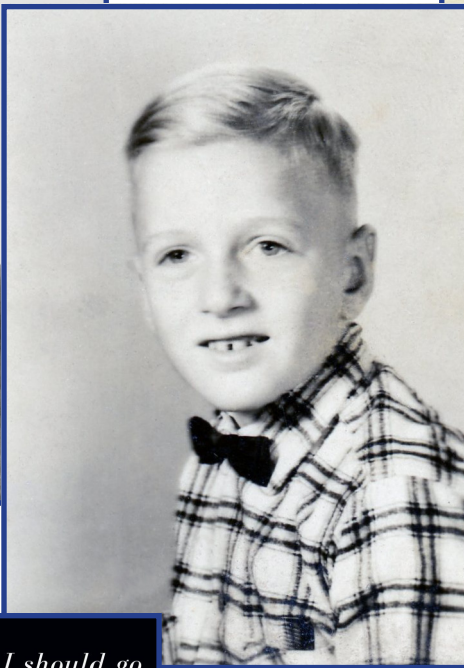
Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, quote from The Little Prince



"Well, I must endure the presence of a few caterpillars if I wish to become acquainted with the butterflies."

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, quote from The Little Prince



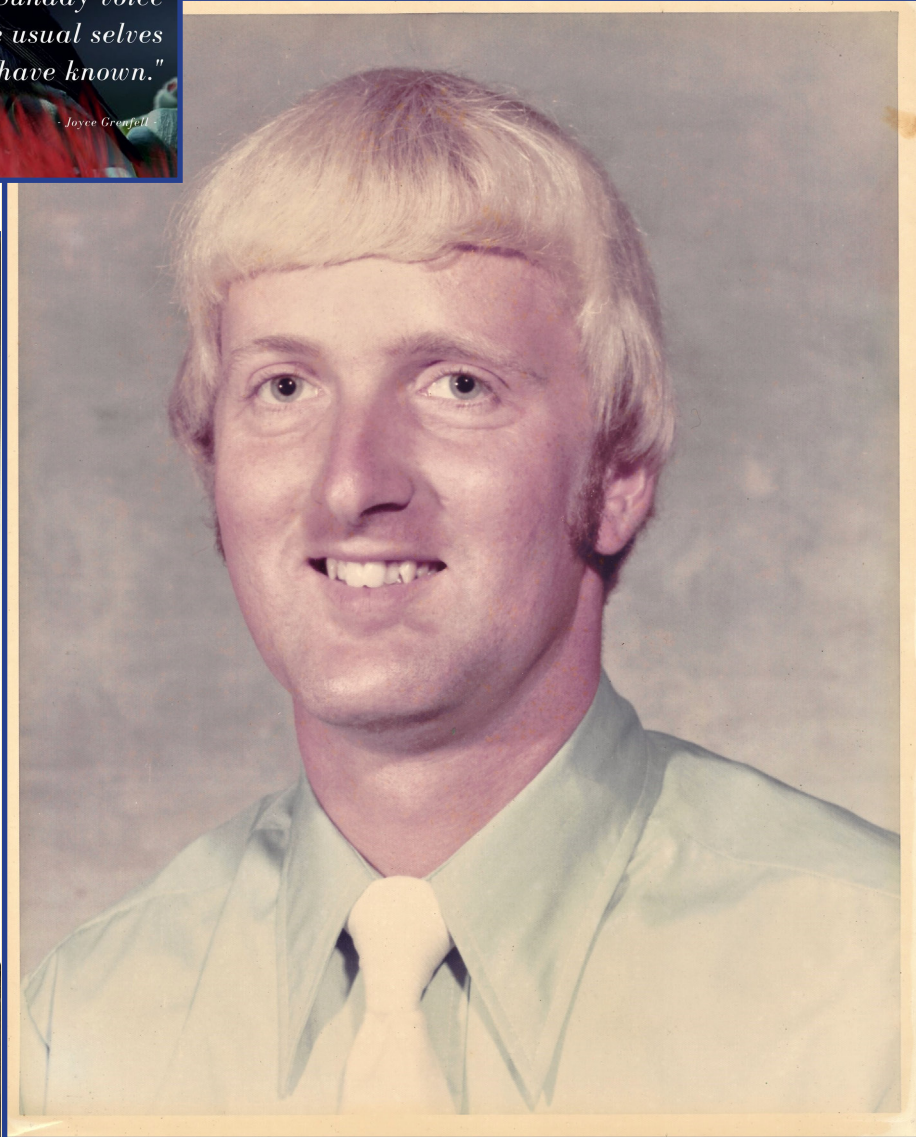
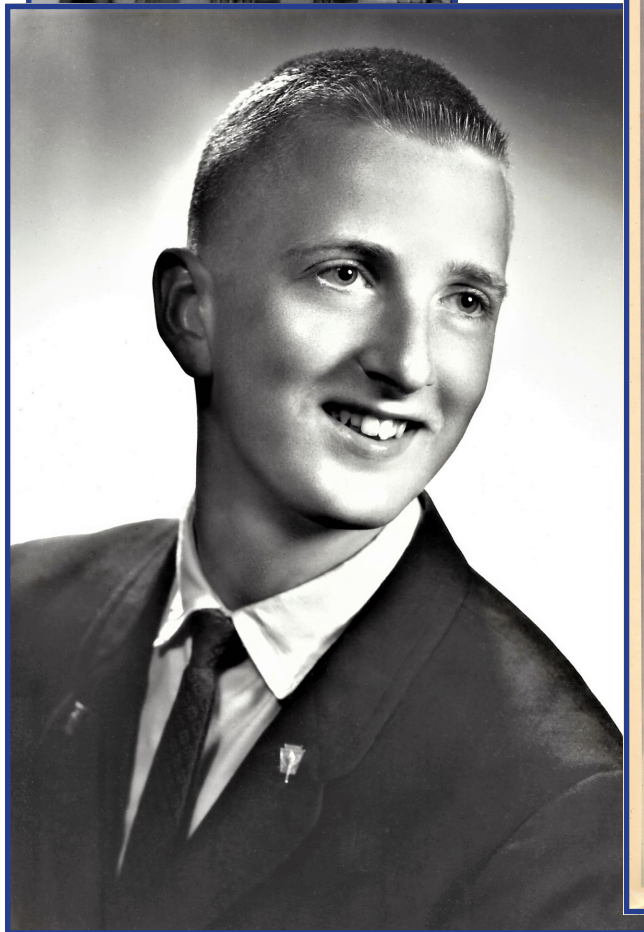


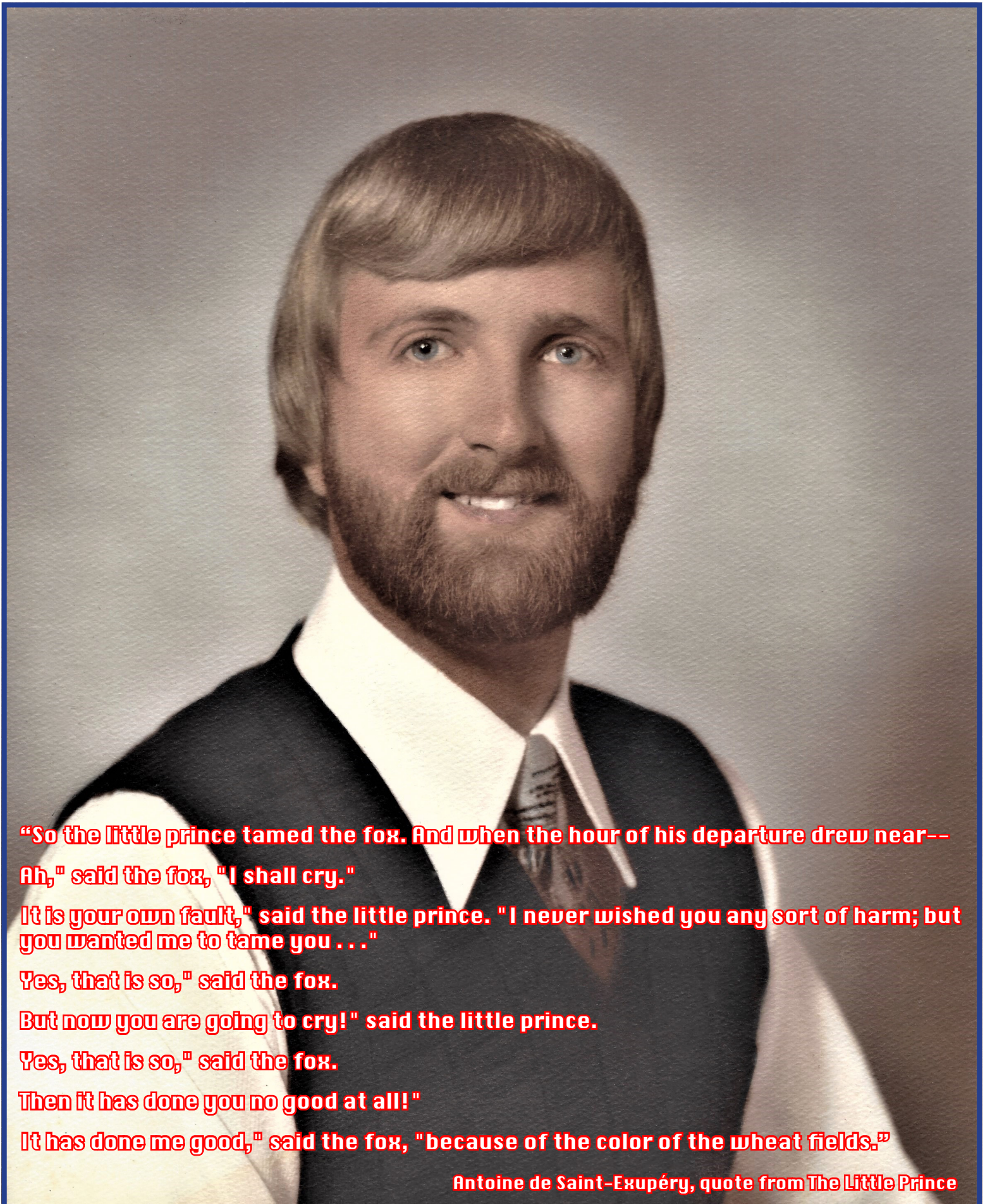
*"If I should go
before the rest of you
Break not a flower
Nor inscribe a stone
Nor when I am gone
Speak in a Sunday voice
But be the usual selves
That I have known."*

- Joyce Kilmer

"I remembered the fox. One runs the risk of crying a bit if one allows oneself to be tamed."

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, quote from The Little Prince





"So the little prince tamed the fox. And when the hour of his departure drew near-- Ah," said the fox, "I shall cry."

It is your own fault," said the little prince. "I never wished you any sort of harm; but you wanted me to tame you . . ."

Yes, that is so," said the fox.

But now you are going to cry!" said the little prince.

Yes, that is so," said the fox.

Then it has done you no good at all!"

It has done me good," said the fox, "because of the color of the wheat fields."

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, quote from The Little Prince



There's no word to describe
the loss of a sibling.
If you lose a spouse,
you're a widow or widower.
If you lose your parents,
you're an orphan.
But if you lose a sibling,
you just become the girl
who lost her brother.



John Foster Potter

July 18, 1948 - September 22, 2021

The American Dexter Cattle Association notes the passing of John Potter, an internationally renowned Dexter cattle breeder, teacher, mentor, scientist, and friend. John served as the ADCA Regional Director for Region 14 (Michigan, Ontario, Quebec, & Eastern Provinces) from 2000 – 2002, and Region 10 (Indiana, Michigan, Ohio) from 2003 – 2005. He was Chairman of the ADCA Genetics & Science Committee from 2000 – 2005, and then Co-Chairman of the ADCA Pedigree & Genetics Committee from 2006 – 2011. John was honored by the ADCA with a Lifetime Membership in 2019.

John was born in 1948 in Galien, Michigan and grew up on his family's century farm. He graduated from Galien High School in 1966, and then obtained a B.S. degree from St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana, and an M.S. degree from Michigan State University. After his education, he returned to Galien to teach science at Galien High School. He also established Spruce Grove Farm (SGF) in order to raise livestock.

John started his ADCA registered Dexter cattle herd in July 1992. His first Dexter was a black, horned bull calf named Dinsmore Farm's Zorro, that came from Ronald & Gail Brinkley (Dinsmore Farm herd) near Buchanan, Michigan. In the same year, he purchased a dun bull calf, black bred cow and two black heifers from a variety of farms. Over the next seven years, black and dun calves were born on the farm. In February 1999, John began to intentionally breed for red coat color in his herd with the purchase of a red bull named Llanfair's Aldebaran. In October 2002, he added the red, polled Dexter bull, Llanfair's Cinnabar,

continuing to focus on breeding red and dun polled Dexter cattle.

In 2001, John pursued a research project on the dun coat color found in Dexter cattle with Dr. Sheila M. Schmutz, a prominent geneticist at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. That project culminated in the discovery of the first brown mutation ever confirmed in cattle. The Dexter dun study concluded with a publication in 2003, co-authored by John Potter, entitled "TYRP1 is associated with dun coat color in Dexter cattle or how now brown cow?", published by the International Society for Animal Genetics in their journal, *Animal Genetics*, June 2003, 34, p. 169-175. (See page #7)

When Chondrodysplasia ("bulldog" gene, BD1) genetic testing became available to Dexter breeders in the United States in 2004, John served as the liaison between the ADCA and Bova-Can Laboratories of the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) in Canada. The Dun factor coat color test was also made available from Bova-Can Laboratories at that time.

From 2001 through 2004, John Potter and Anthony Bauer (Sand Prairie Dexter herd) in Mineral, Illinois, co-owned the Tama Takoda Herd, offering horned and polled, red, dun, and black, Chondrodysplasia-free, Dexter cattle. They used the herd prefix "Tama" and registered 54 Dexters in the ADCA.

In 2009, John coordinated the ADCA effort to test Dexter AI bulls and registered breeding stock for the newly discovered PHA (pulmonary hypoplasia with anasarca) mutation, contributing many samples from his own AI semen inventory, testing his own herd, and helping other breeders to test for PHA. He wrote articles that were published in the Dexter Bulletin and posted

on the ADCA website to inform other Dexter breeders of the need to test for PHA and how to make sensible decisions based on test results.



John utilized genetic testing on his own herd to guide his selection decisions and to identify breeding stock with the most desirable genetic traits. He reported his test results to the ADCA and included much of that information on each animal's online pedigree, along with photo documentation. For many years he served as an experienced and capable resource on genetics and genetic testing for Dexter breeders around the world.

John is shown as "Breeder" on 494 ADCA registrations (includes the Tama & SGF prefixes) between 1993 and 2018. Within that total are: 76 Dun, 175 Black, and 243 Red. There are 229 registered as "Horned" and 265 registered as "Polled".

John lived his life in wonder of it all, and he pursued scientific interests with dedication and enthusiasm. He took amazing photographs, and shared his time generously with others, helping and encouraging many along the way. ❀

