



Henry Davis "Hank" Ferris Jr., VMD

March 30, 1949 - April 18, 2025

Henry Davis Ferris, Jr., VMD affectionately known as “Hank,” a devoted husband, father, grandfather, veterinarian, and community leader, passed away peacefully on April 18, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. He was 76 years old.

Hank is survived by his beloved wife of 51 years, Deborah Ferris, who stood by his side through every chapter of life. He is also survived by his children, Marc Ferris (Sarah) and Melissa Taylor (Jeffery), and his cherished grandchildren: Dean, Burke, Sawyer, and Dempsey.

Born on March 30, 1949, in Brooklyn, New York, Hank was the eldest son of Henry and Iva Ferris. He was a loving brother to Iva “Brooke” Ferris and Wilfred “Bill” Ferris. He spent his early years in Staten Island, NY, and Bethlehem, PA, where he graduated from Liberty High School. A proud Eagle Scout, Hank’s early love of learning and service shaped the path he would follow for the rest of his life.

Pursuing his passion for animals and science, Hank attended Penn State University and later earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (VMD) from the University of Pennsylvania. His commitment to veterinary medicine was unwavering. In 1982, he purchased Middletown Animal Hospital, and for the next 25 years, he transformed it from a small practice into a state-of-the-art

facility, providing compassionate care to animals and comfort to their families.

A tireless servant of the community, Hank was deeply involved in the town of Holmdel, NJ, where he and Deborah raised their family. He was a dedicated member of the Holmdel Township Volunteer Fire Department, eventually serving as its President. He also served on the Holmdel Township Committee and was honored to hold the position of Mayor from 1994 to 1995—a role he fulfilled with integrity, humility, and purpose.

Beyond his professional and civic life, Hank was a gifted woodworker and handyman, always creating and building with joy and precision. In retirement, he relished the sunshine and camaraderie found in Ocean Isle Beach, NC, and Naples, FL—often seen golfing, boating, and spending time with friends and his beloved dogs, Clancy and Kendall.

Hank lived his life with deep purpose, strong values, and an abiding compassion for others. His legacy is one of kindness, leadership, and quiet strength. He did his best, always, and will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday, April 28, 2025, at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. Interment will follow in St. John's Memorial Garden.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to the Alzheimer's Support Network 1421 Pine Ridge Road, Suite 100, Naples, FL 34109 or to Avow Hospice 1095 Whippoorwill Lane, Naples, FL 34105.

To sign his guest register or leave online condolences, please visit: www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home Family
Owned and Operated Since 1978.

Cemetery Details

St. John the Evangelist Memorial Garden

625 111th Ave. No.
Naples, FL 34108

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

APR 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
625 111th Ave N
Naples, FL 34108

Tribute Wall

JS

“ I worked on Mr Ferris’s heating and air conditioning systems at his house in ocean isle beach nc he was a good man to work for and I will miss him very much praying for the family. Me and him had a lot of good conversations

Joe Smith - May 16, 2025 at 12:11 PM

MT

“ We were so saddened to hear of your loss. With heartfelt condolences we will remember you and Hank in our prayers. May you find comfort in the wonderful memories you shared together. Love.....Peter and Mary Ellen Heaney

Mary Ellen Travis - April 27, 2025 at 02:24 PM

FF

“ My family will always remember you for saving one of our dogs while no one else would even try, and after that you and the great clinic you built cared for all our pets for the last 40 years. Thank you and RIP



Frank & Sue Cotton & Family - April 27, 2025 at 07:15 AM

CM

“ Rest peacefully Dr. Ferris. I’m glad you took a chance on me. Carolyn.

Carolyn Murray - April 24, 2025 at 08:39 PM

SS

“ I offer my sincere condolences to Debbie and the Ferris family. I have know Hank for over 40 years . I found him to be kind , compassionate , knowledgeable and insightful. I enjoyed working with him during that time . He will be missed. Steve Setrin

Steve Setrin - April 24, 2025 at 02:56 PM