



## Dr. Erwin John Basch

March 29, 1927 - January 22, 2020

Dr. Erwin J. Basch, 92, of Des Moines, Iowa, formerly of Centralia, passed away Wednesday, January 22, 2020.

Dr. Basch was born March 29, 1927 in Yugoslavia, (present day Serbia) the son of Hugo Basch and Magdalena (Chorle') Basch. He married Katharina Lung in December 1951 and she survives in Des Moines, Iowa.

In addition to his wife of over 68 years, Katharina Basch, he is also survived by his two children: Elizabeth Meredith and husband Skip Ellis of Greeneville, Tennessee and Ed Basch and wife Barb of Pleasant Hill, Iowa; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Dr. Basch was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Dr. L. Peter Basch.

Dr. Basch graduated with his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Vienna, Austria. He and Katharina immigrated to the United States in 1954. He owned and operated Basch Veterinary Clinic in Centralia for 38 years until his retirement in 1992. He was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Centralia. He enjoyed painting and doing handy work. Dr. Basch cherished the time he spent with his family and friends.

Per Dr. Basch's wishes, cremation rites will be accorded, and a Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, February 1, 2020, 10:00 AM at St. Mary Catholic Church in Centralia with Revered Steve Pautler officiating. Private Family Burial to follow after Mass. Memorial donations may be made to an animal charity of your choice or to St. Mary Elementary School in Centralia.

They will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home and Cremation Services at 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 62801, (618)532-3523, who is honored to be of service to the Basch Family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting [www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com](http://www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com) and the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home Facebook Page.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Georgia Jones-Richardson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Erwin John Basch*



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**Georgia Jones-Richardson** - February 03, 2020 at 10:25 PM



“ *Judy Finckbone lit a candle in memory of Dr. Erwin John Basch*



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**Judy Finckbone** - February 03, 2020 at 12:19 PM



“ *Dr. Basch, was my veterinarian for many years and both he and his bride always took the time to help with any animal you took to him and that was a bunch, baby rabbits, an owl, stray cats and dogs. I think of him often and miss wonderful stories about his trips home and how much he enjoyed them. He is missed by me and all my family. God bless his family and thank you for sharing him with us*

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**Judy Finckbone** - February 03, 2020 at 12:19 PM

EW

“ Dr. Basch was a kind and good man. We always enjoyed talking to him at the clinic and later we were happy to see him and chat a bit at Schnucks. He holds a special place in our hearts. I'm sorry I can't come to the Mass of Christian Burial today. I am up north at my daughter's home. The entire family remains in my prayers. Mike and Eileen Wilimzig

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**Eileen Wilimzig** - February 01, 2020 at 08:52 AM

VH

“ He was a great man.

*Vince and Julie Holtkamp*

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**Vince Holtkamp** - January 30, 2020 at 11:30 AM

VJ

“ Thank you for being such a kind and caring veterinarian Dr. Basch!  
My condolences to the family.  
*Vicky James*

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**Vicky James** - January 29, 2020 at 09:43 PM

AS

“ Dear Basch Family,  
I am so sorry for your loss. Dr. Basch cared for the many Boston felines and dogs. I know he was also the vet for the Somers's pets. Dr. Basch was always so gentle and kind. Even after I was married, I brought my cats to him for care...He would tease me about me choosing the Southern Illinois DVM....he truly cared. I couldn't trust another vet until I moved out of state and didn't have the choice. I have had many cats since then and a few veterinarians. No one comes close to Dr. Basch!  
Thank you for sharing your spouse, father, grandfather with a community that needed and appreciated him so much.

Anne Boston Somers

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Anne Somers - January 28, 2020 at 07:10 PM

GJ

Dr Basch was a good (vet Dr.) He took care of the little creatures well and cured them. So sorry to hear this.. Prayers for the family.

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Georgia Jones-Richardson - February 03, 2020 at 10:19 PM

VE

“ What a beautiful soul..so blessed to have crossed paths in life with him.. genuine lover of all God's creatures...  
Mike & Vicki ( Schoen) Edwards

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Vicki Edwards - January 28, 2020 at 09:29 AM

WO

“ America {and Southern IL} was Very Fortunate to have The Basch family immigrate here. The level of Human friendliness, Compassion and so much more ..was and is.. something I have Never forgotten. It was my Honer to have crossed paths with such a Wonderful true Gentleman... Bill Oberg

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William A Oberg - January 27, 2020 at 12:57 PM

PS

“ A special prayer to the Basch family

*Dr. Bash & his wife earned high respect in Centralia....He was our family "Doc" through 3 generations of family pets. He held such passion, and caring for all of Gods creatures & yes he had a sense of humor.*

*Back in 1971, I was 13. I brought home another stray.A beautiful orange, black & white kitten. I named her Greta, my Mom named her Gloria. When Dr. Basch took her from my arms for shots - he asked for her name. When we answered Greta/Gloria. Dr. Bash smiled, held the kitten up, and said with his accent AHH! Greta Garbo ,and Gloria Swanson, what perfect names, we will call her both! Both names were wrote down in her file.*

*I remember Mrs. Bash as being so kind, and sweet, they both were loved by all.*

*Such good memories, and an honor to know them . Penny Sprehe*

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**Penny Sprehe** - January 24, 2020 at 01:22 PM

SF

“ I first met Dr. Basch and Kate when Elizabeth and I worked on a class project together in high school. Kate is so sweet and kind. I started taking pets to him and did so over the years. His office was packed day and night. When we would get our turn in his office we always got hugs and then he cared for our animals. Then he would start chatting and this would go on for a long time, which I'm sure the people waiting didn't like. I once ran over my cat in my driveway at home. Dr. Basch fashioned a splint with wire coat hangers. He told me to expect the worst. When I brought Ralph back after 3 weeks Dr. Basch was happy and amazed.

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**Steve Frazier** - January 23, 2020 at 09:56 PM

DB

“ I remember how much Dr cared for and about our pets. Our dog always was excited to go see him. My condolences to all.

Dennis Bingheim - January 23, 2020 at 08:42 PM

AB

“ Ann Breuer lit a candle in memory of Dr. Erwin John Basch



Ann Breuer - January 23, 2020 at 06:45 PM

AB

“ What a loss for friends and all the animals he cared for..A true treasure to the community--and for the dedicated service provided for many years. WE ALL THANK YOU. Sadly you will be missed and the people and animals are at a loss.i hope the family feels the love we all shared for such a dedicated man, sending sincere sympathy

ANN BREUER

Ann Breuer - January 23, 2020 at 06:42 PM



“ Sending thoughts and prayers to the family. So sorry for your loss. Mary Altenbaumer

Mary Altenbaumer - January 23, 2020 at 05:58 PM

SH

“ We got word 28 years ago that Dr. Basch was preparing to retire. At the time we had did not have intent of starting a practice in Centralia. We decided to contact him and after discussion he decided to put off his retirement from April to December of 1992 so that we could come up with a game plan. When he closed his doors they graciously sent people our way. We are forever in indebted to him and his beloved Katie. We had the pleasure of helping them care for their own animals over the next 20+ years. We thoroughly enjoyed and were blessed to visit with him. He was kind-hearted and witty. I still believe he was a better vet because he relied solely on his mind, his senses and his hands to treat patients. I was truly blessed to know him.

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**Shawn Monken Hartmann** - January 23, 2020 at 04:58 PM

MS

“ Dr Basch was always very concerned and helpful with our cats. Remembering his kind nature. Ed and all family am thinking of you all and sending hugs

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**Marian Suhl** - January 23, 2020 at 03:25 PM

JF

“ Dr. Basch was a kind man and a wonderful veterinarian. I knew this because of how I heard others talk about him who knew him much better than I did!

*John Fields, D.V.M.*

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**John C. Fields,D.V.M.** - January 23, 2020 at 10:22 AM

SM

“ Stacey Moss lit a candle in memory of Dr. Erwin John Basch



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**Stacey Moss** - January 23, 2020 at 09:39 AM

SM

“ I'm very sorry for the loss. He was a great man & Vet. My pets in the past always went to him. He always knew what was wrong with my pets!

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**Stacey Moss** - January 23, 2020 at 09:39 AM

CS

“ Dr Bausch was a kind sweet man. He always had a smile on his face and was always concerned about you animals. I missed him when he retired. When he was still in Centralia it was always nice running into him when he was out shopping. I always enjoyed seeing him and catching up on how he was doing. He was loved by many! God bless him and his family.

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**Connie Sinclair** - January 23, 2020 at 09:24 AM

MS

“ Dr. Basch was the most amazing man and the best vet. This was not Just an occupation for him but a love for the pets he served. He was also compassionate when he had to allow our pets to cross rainbow bridge. He felt our pain and was sympathetic to our wounded hearts . I pray the Good Lord gives him a special place in heaven. RIP

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**Mary Ann Smith** - January 23, 2020 at 01:12 AM

JW

“ *Jeanna Winegarner lit a candle in memory of  
Dr. Erwin John Basch*



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**Jeanna Winegarner** - January 23, 2020 at 12:23 AM

JW

“ *My condolences to all who knew and loved him.  
He was always the sweetest.  
May he Rest in Peace.*

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**Jeanna Winegarner** - January 23, 2020 at 12:23 AM