



Richard Alan Freund

October 4, 1928 - April 10, 2026

Richard Alan Freund, 97, of Mooresville, North Carolina, passed away peacefully on April 10, 2026.

Born on October 4, 1928, in New Jersey, Richard was the son of Walter Joseph Freund and Helen Oppenheimer Freund. He pursued his passion for animals by attending Rutgers University before continuing to Cornell University, where he earned his degree in veterinary medicine.

Following his graduation, Richard began his career as a large animal veterinarian in Virginia. He later served his country in the United States Army as a first lieutenant, working as a meat inspector. During his time stationed in Omaha, Nebraska, he and his beloved wife, Barbara, welcomed their first child, Laura.

After completing his military service, Richard briefly worked as a small animal veterinarian in Silver Spring, Maryland. Determined to build something of his own, he and Barbara relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina, where he established his veterinary practice on Monroe Road, Freund Veterinary Hospital.

Richard shared a remarkable 73-year marriage with his beloved wife, Barbara Helen Heineke Freund, who preceded him in death. What began with a first

date to the circus at Madison Square Garden grew into a lifetime of unwavering devotion, love and partnership. He spent his life ensuring her happiness, a testament to the depth of his character and commitment.

Above all else, Richard valued family. He is survived by his children, Laura Freund, Amy Abernathy (Jack) and Johanna Newman (Kevin Reeves); his grandchildren, Christopher (Carson), Stephanie Phillips, Ben, Justin and Mary Newman; and his great-grandchild, Arthur Phillips. He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara Helen Heineke Freund; his son, Jeffrey Freund; his brothers, Walter and Donald Freund; and his parents.

He found great joy in the outdoors and had a love of sailing, especially alongside Barbara. He became a member of the Lake Norman Yacht Club in 1967 and especially enjoyed spending time at his lake cottage next to the yacht club. He also enjoyed woodworking, gardening, and spending time with the people he loved most.

Richard's legacy is one of devotion-to his family, his wife and the life he built. He was known for his strength and resilience. He cared fiercely for his family and wanted nothing more than their happiness. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew him.

A private service will be held by the family.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Freund family. Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.