

## OBITUARY



**Dr. Richard B. Davis**  
**March 7, 1933–October 27, 2007**

Dr. Richard B. Davis of Athens, Georgia, passed away on October 27, 2007. Dr. Davis was a long-time member of the faculty at the University of Georgia, Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center. He was born in Winston Salem, North Carolina, on March 7, 1933 to Emma MacKenzie and Charles Hurd Davis. He graduated from Ridgeway High School in Martinsville, Virginia, in 1950. He attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute and continued at the University of Georgia graduating in 1953. He then went on to obtain his DVM at the University of Georgia in 1957, and an MS in 1971. He practiced veterinary medicine in Fredericksburg, Virginia, for a short while before moving to Dade City, Florida, where he was the Director of the Florida Department of Agriculture Diagnostic Lab for six years. In 1966, he relocated to Athens, where he became a professor in The University of Georgia Veterinary School specializing in avian medicine. He continued his professorship for 30 years until his retirement in 1996.

Dr. Davis was a highly respected teacher of veterinary and poultry science students and was a mentor for a generation of young veterinarians who received their Master of Avian Medicine at the University of Georgia. He was also an excellent avian

clinician, who served as a resource person for poultry producers, pet bird breeders and fanciers, and game birds fanciers. He developed and patented a bacterin for infectious coryza for which he received the University of Georgia Inventor of the Year award in 1992, and co-authored a book on diseases of cage birds. His work in the control and treatment of poultry diseases took him across the country as well as to Central and South America and North Africa. In 1997 he received the C. A. Bottorff Award from the American Association of Avian Pathologists for his activities as an avian diagnostician who had contributed significantly to poultry health in North America.

Dick Davis was known for his excellent sense of humor and storytelling abilities. He was touted as the Big Chicken and was not only revered as a gifted teacher but a fun-loving practical joker. He was an avid golfer and was devoted to his family.

Survivors include his wife of 51 years, Maxine Kicklighter; his children, Richard Davis Jr., Long Creek, South Carolina; Jan Davis Finney and husband Steve, Athens, Georgia; Catherine Davis Praeger, St. Simons Island, Georgia; and grandchildren, Davis and Drew Finney and Ben and Sam Praeger.