

Dr. Wayne A. Wagner passed away peacefully with Joan by his side on March 2, 2026, at the age of 94. A devoted husband, veterinarian, Navy officer, and man of deep Christian faith, Wayne lived a life defined by service, dedication, and quiet humility.

Wayne was born on February 16, 1932, in Highland Park, Illinois, to Walter A. Wagner and Lucile C. Wagner. He graduated from Highland Park High School in 1950, where he "majored" in football. After working for a year, he enrolled at Mississippi State College in Starkville, Mississippi, studying Dairy Science in the School of Agriculture. Wayne graduated in May 1955 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture, earning special honors that made his parents very proud. Following graduation, Wayne attended Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, where he received his commission as a U.S. Naval Ensign in November 1955. He served primarily aboard the USS Cavalier (APA-37) based out of Long Beach, California, and also served in Japan. He was then transferred to the amphibious base in San Diego prior to his honorable discharge as a Lieutenant in 1958.

On October 14, 1956, Wayne married Joan Jenkins in her hometown of Havre, Montana. They made their first home together in Long Beach where he was on active duty. Their marriage spanned nearly seven decades and was marked by deep partnership, shared faith, and enduring love.

After completing his military service, Wayne accepted a position with Meadow Gold Dairy in Greeley, Colorado, where he and Joan made their home. In 1961, he made the decision to pursue veterinary medicine and enrolled at Colorado State University. He graduated in 1965 with his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. Wayne began practicing veterinary medicine in Loveland, Colorado, in a mixed practice. In 1968, he and Joan returned to Greeley and established West Ridge Animal Hospital for small animals, opening the practice in the fall of that year. Together they enjoyed serving the community for more than a decade, caring for countless animals. In 1979, due to health concerns, Wayne sold the hospital and practice to Dr. James Emmett. In 1980, he began a new chapter as manager of Professional Veterinary Supply in Greeley, working with a group of veterinarians to serve practices across a five-state region. Wayne thoroughly enjoyed this role and the relationships it brought, continuing until his retirement in 1993.

Wayne's life was deeply shaped by his Christian faith. The foundation was first laid through the influence of his college roommate at Mississippi State, and later strengthened by Joan's quiet and steady faith. Those influences led Wayne to accept Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior on March 29, 1959 - a decision that guided the rest of his life. At the time of his passing, they were members of Generations Church, where throughout the years he faithfully served in many church roles, including church board member, greeter, jail ministry volunteer, and leader of the senior fellowship group known as the "Hearty Souls." Wayne loved the Lord and found joy in serving Him and spending time with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Wayne preceded in death by his parents Walter and Lucile Wagner, his brothers Walter (Carleen) Wagner and Ronald (Martha) Wagner, Sisters Phyllis (LeRoy) Haas, Caryl (Bemis) Carlton, and Barbara Nikolai, and an infant son. Also brother-in-law Walter (Loretta) Jenkins, and sister-in-law Donna (Marlan) Olson. Wayne is survived by his wife Joan, sister-in-law Irene Mischke, brothers-in-law Doug (Gayle) Jenkins and Dave (Danelle) Jenkins, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Wayne will be remembered for his steady character, his dedication to his profession, his love for his family, and his unwavering faith in God. His life touched many through his service, kindness, and willingness to serve. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.



Celebrating THE *Life* OF

DR. WAYNE A. WAGNER

February 16, 1932 - March 2, 2026



age · honor · respect · bravery · courage · honor · respect · brave



In Loving Memory of
Wayne A. Wagner
February 16, 1932 ~ March 2, 2026

Memorial Service

1:00 p.m. Thursday, March 26, 2026
Generations Church
Greeley, Colorado

Officiating

Pastor Eric Ebbinghaus
Rev. Richard Maurer

Special Music

"Eternal Father Strong to Save" - William Whiting
"Go Light Your World" - Chris Rice
"Abide With Me" - led by Rev. Richard Maurer

Special Words

Ron Maifeld Pastor Bill Provo
Doug Jenkins Dave Jenkins

Honorary Pallbearers

Doug Jenkins Dave Jenkins Ron Maifeld
Bryce Maifeld Bob Spykstra Tom Reynolds

Military Honors

U.S. Navy Honor Guard

Final Resting Place

To Be Held at a Later Date
Linn Grove Cemetery
Greeley, Colorado

One or the Other

One or the other must leave, one or the other must stay.
One or the other must grieve, that is forever the way.
That is the vow that was sworn, faithful 'til death do us part.
Braving what had to be borne, hiding the ache in the heart.
One, howsoever adored, first must be summoned away.
That is the will of the Lord, one or the other must stay.

~ Author Unknown ~

Family and friends are invited to remain in the chapel for light refreshments and fellowship following the memorial service for Wayne.