

Stan Pulliam

Pulliam, Stan, age 64, retired high school teacher and basketball coach, well known rabbit breeder and judge, US Marine Vietnam Veteran, died Sunday, May 4, 2008. No public visitation. Memorial service 10am Wednesday at Pleasantview Baptist Church, 1335 North Buckner, Derby. Stan was preceded in death by his father, Leonard Pulliam and brother, Dale Pulliam. Survivors include: his beloved wife of 40 years, Linda Pulliam, Mulvane; children and their spouses, Christy (Kevin Richardson) Pulliam, Derby, Kip (Ashli) Pulliam, Wichita, Robin (Aaron) Westerman, Derby, Dustin (DeVon) Pulliam, Mulvane; grandchildren, Taite and Jordan Pulliam, Brett and Luke Westerman, Gunner Pulliam and Charli (due in August); mother, Betty Jean Pulliam, Haysville; sisters, Sheryl (Reverend Paul) Miller, Wichita, Sandy (Roger) Attebury, Wichita; numerous nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established with American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., 2128 Leroy Place, NW, Washington, DC 20008. Smith Mortuary, Derby is in charge of arrangements.

(From a 2006 KSRBA News)

Stan Pulliam has raised rabbits for 41 years. He has raised New Zealand Reds and Whites, Champagnes, Florida Whites, Holland Lops, Mini Lops, Dutch, Mini Rex, and Netherland Dwarfs. In smaller numbers he has raised Californians and French Lops.

Stan is a member of the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Kansas State Rabbit Breeders Association, Sunflower Rabbit Breeders Association, Kansas Netherland Dwarf Specialty Club, American Netherland Dwarf Rabbit Breeders Association, Florida White Rabbit Breeders Association, Permian Basin Rabbit Breeders Association, and Kan-Mo Combine.

Stan is currently President of the Kansas Netherland Dwarf Specialty Club. Past offices Stan has held include: Vice President of the Kan-Mo Combine, a member of the Standards Committee for the Florida White RBA, and a member of the ARBA Judge's Testing Committee, President of the Sunflower RBA, President of the Oklahoma RBA, Vice President of the national Champagne D'Argent Rabbit Federation, and President of Permian Basin Rabbit Breeders Association.

In 1956 Stan purchased a trio of New Zealand Reds from John Jennings of Iowa. That same year he purchased a trio of Champagne D'Argent from Oren Reynolds of Illinois. The rabbits came in fruit crates and were shipped by rail. Stan remembers sitting at the Santa Fe train depot for four hours anxiously awaiting their arrival.

Stan's most exciting wins have been Best of Breed at the ARBA National Convention numerous times and Best of Breed at the National Specialty Shows. He has won Best in Breed with six different breeds at national shows.

Stan's most notable accomplishments include being one of the first breeders in the United States to import the Netherland Dwarf from England in the late 1960's. He has had dwarfs continually since 1969. His stock can be traced back to the original imports. In 1972, he received his ARBA judge's license and has judged throughout the United States since then.

Stan noticed growth in the rabbit industry. There has been a change from mainly large breeds in the 50's, 60's, and 70's to smaller breeds in the 80's and 90's. There is also a shift from a basically all male ARBA in the past to a large number of women in both exhibiting and judging. The sizes of the shows have also risen dramatically. Shows in the 50's and 60's usually had from 200 to 300 rabbits. Those same shows now have from 1000 – 1500. Conventions have gone from 3 or 4 thousand to 18-20 thousand plus.

The Pulliam family hasn't been directly involved with the rabbit programs, but they have always supported Stan and have never complained about the time that he puts in with rabbits.

When Stan started rabbits, he fed a combination of grains and good quality hay. He also fed fresh and dry comfrey. In the 60's he changed to feed pellets, but he still supplements with grains and comfrey.

Stan has met some interesting and prominent people in his early years in the ARBA. John Fehr, Ed Stahl, Jimmy Blythe, Charley Pine, and Oren Reynolds were among these people. Stan's friend and mentor for over 30 years is

Fiber McGeeHee. He remembers some early members of the Sunflower RBA. In the 1950's, Charles and Lottie Willcutt, Betty Phipps were involved. In the 1960's he remembers Clarence Benjamin, Mary Carney, and Ellsworth Tibbetts as his mentors.

Stan would advise new breeders to start small, buy the BEST stock they can afford, and cull ruthlessly.