

In Honor and in Memory of.....



Sam Rizzo

ARBA Judge and past member of the ARBA Board of Directors, Sam Rizzo, 74, passed away on July 9, 2009. Sam became a member of the ARBA in 1955, and a life member in 1999. In July of 1957 he received his Rabbit Registrar's license and in August of 1959 received his Rabbit Judge's License. He was primarily known for his red New Zealands, and served the National Federation of NZ Breeders in many capacities, including Secretary/Treasurer. Sam was a retired teacher and a veteran of the army.

Sam was active in all areas of the rabbit hobby. He was a well-known figure at shows throughout the northeast and other parts of the country. You could sense from his demeanor that he loved the hobby and working with rabbits. He was a promoter of youth in everything he did. He held numerous positions in the New York RCBA, including Vice-President, a position he held at the time of passing. Sam also was active in his local club, Finger Lakes RBA, where he held many offices during his lifetime.

There is no doubt Sam and his good friend Dick Kuehnle were an important part of the history of rabbits in New York State.

Sam is survived by his wife, Gayle; daughters, Debbie (Chuck) Webb of Waterloo, Linda (Ray) Johnston of Lima. 7 grandchildren, Andrew, Amanda, Nick & Jake Webb. Tara & Vincent Gerlinger and Adam Johnston. Brother, Glenn (Sandy) Rizzo of Swansboro, NC., nieces, nephews and cousins.

Memorial contributions may be made to the NY State Rabbit and Cavy Breeders Association, Youth Scholarship, c/o Deborah Vecchio, PO Box 33 Parish, NY or American Cancer Society.



Dick Kuehnle

ARBA Judge Richard Kuehnle, 75, veteran of the Korean War, passed away on Thursday, July 2nd, 2009, at his home in Cicero, NY. Dick, as he was known, joined the ARBA in 1960, received his Registrar's License in 1964, and his Rabbit Judge's License in 1969. In 1971 he received his license as a Cavy Judge.

Dick raised and exhibited Dutch, New Zealands, and Silver Martens for many years. He also enjoyed raising and showing poultry. In his role as an ARBA Judge, Dick was active until illness made it impossible in 2002. He was involved in a number of local clubs as well as the state show circuit. He was a past director of the Herkimer (NY) County Fair.

Dick was most delighted when he was working with youth exhibitors, whether ARBA or 4-H. He was a well-liked youth judge and any show he judged became more of a seminar. He was an avid promoter of youth and the ARBA and when judging 4-H shows always presented the BIS winner with an ARBA membership. Dick was also key in promoting and starting a 4-H rabbit show at the New York State Fair.

He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Sandra Kuehnle; four sons, Richard, David (Linda), William (AnnMarie) and Karl (Chris) Kuehnle; a stepson, Jon (Janel) Magistro; two daughters, Karen (William) Carrig and Kristine Kuehnle; three step daughters, Kathleen Conboy, Elizabeth (Patrick) Chetney and Anne Marie (James) Phillips; 19 grandchildren and one great-grandson; three sisters, Josephine Donnelly, Patricia Ralbovsky and Marlene Taylor; and many nieces and nephews.

Contributions in Dick's memory may be made to Hospice of CNY.

Two icons of the NY Rabbit Hobby.....gone, but not forgotten.