

## **Dr. Robert W. Phillips**

*[Although he was not a member of AVMA, Dr. Phillips' obituary appeared in the May 15, 2013 issue of JAVMA]*

Dr. Phillips (COL '61), 84, Fort Collins, Colo., died Feb. 26, 2013.

After time in Montana as a rancher-cowboy, Dr. Phillips earned a doctorate in physiology and nutrition at the University of California-Davis. In 1964, he joined the Colorado State University faculty, where he was a professor of veterinary physiology and biophysics in the Department of Physiology. He trained a number of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in his laboratory, and some 130 papers were published in scientific journals as a result of research conducted. Colorado State presented Dr. Phillips with The Oliver P. Pennock Distinguished Service Award in 1983 and the 50 Year Career Achievement Award in 2010.

In June 1991, Dr. Phillips served on the ground crew for the Spacelab Life Sciences 1 mission aboard the shuttle Columbia, as principal contact on one of two radio loops between the payload crew and scientists on the ground whose experiments were being conducted. Originally, NASA had chosen him in 1984 to be aboard that flight. He had trained for six years as a payload specialist before developing a cardiac arrhythmia that removed his flight eligibility.

After SLS 1, he spent three years at NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C., as chief scientist for the space station. In 1994, he joined NASA's Life Science Division, providing education and outreach primarily to science teachers and students. Dr. Phillips retired in 2005 but continued to give presentations about living in space and wrote the book "Grappling with Gravity: How Will Life Adapt to Living in Space?"

A veteran of the Korean War stationed in Alaska, he rose to the rank of first lieutenant in the infantry.

Dr. Phillips was a charter diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Nutrition, a distinguished scholar of the National Academies of Practice, and an emeritus member of the American Physiological Society and the American Institute of Nutrition. From 1998-2012, Dr. Phillips served on the board of directors for the Mark Morris Institute. His recent civic activities in Fort Collins included chairing the Expansion Grant Writing Subcommittee and serving on the Senior Advisory Board, Senior Center Expansion Committee, and Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Survivors include his wife, Nancy; three sons; and a daughter. Memorials may be made to the Dr. Robert and Nancy Phillips Scholarship fund to support CSU veterinary students whose studies emphasize nutrition or the biochemical processes related to metabolism in humans or other animals. Checks, notated with the scholarship name, should be mailed to Colorado State University Foundation, P.O. Box 1870, Fort Collins, CO 80522-1870.