

Team Skunky



Our team comprised of family and friends, participates in the New England Parkinson's Ride as Team Skunky in memory of our father and grandfather, Carl Stoeckel. When his granddaughter was very young while sitting on Carl's lap, she observed he had dark hair with gray at the temples. She told him he looked like a skunk and she was going to call him Skunky. How does one refuse the name given by a grandchild? From that time on he was always affectionately referred to as Skunky.

Carl was a pharmacist by trade who would go the extra mile to help a customer in need. He was a kind soul who loved his family, animals and nature. He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren whether it was playing with them at the State Park or helping to make the holidays a special time. He captured

countless memories on video which our family continues to treasure. Some of his favorite times were walking through the Lackawana State Park or riding through the back roads of Pennsylvania with his family to spot deer. Carl was an animal whisperer; they seemed to have a bond with him. He was known to feed a squirrel by hand and delighted in the many birds that frequented his many bird feeders.

In the final ten years of his life Carl developed a progressive form of Parkinson's disease that slowly caused a decline in his mobility. Despite this Carl never stopped doing those things that brought him the most joy, walks in the woods and spending time with his family. He was never defined by his illness. He was a gentle soul who loved life and touched everyone he met. It is in his memory that my family participates in the New England Parkinson's Ride, an organization dedicated to raising money to find a cure.