



Ernest F Zimmerman

June 2, 1933 - September 10, 2021

Ernest F. Zimmerman, age 88 of Cincinnati, died peacefully on September 10, 2021 after living with Alzheimer's disease for several years.

Ernie was born in the Bronx to Nathan and Elsie Zimmerman. He completed his undergraduate degree at George Washington University, and he received an M.S. in Pharmacy and a Ph.D. in Pharmacology also from George Washington University. He did post-graduate study in molecular biology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He completed a National Institute of Health postdoctoral fellowship at the National Cancer Institute.

Ernie focused his research on teratology and developmental biology at MIT, the NIH, and Stanford University. When he was offered a job in Cincinnati at Children's Hospital Research Foundation in 1968 to establish the division of fetal pharmacology, Esther said, "Where's Cincinnati?" Thus began their journey to a city where they made their home for 53 years.

He worked as the director of the division of fetal pharmacology and the UC College of Medicine and professor of research in pediatrics for the rest of his career. He initiated and served as the first director of the interdisciplinary graduate program in developmental biology from 1971 to 1985. He was awarded the first training grant in teratology funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and served as director from 1977 to 1987. He served as President of the Teratology Society in 1989-1990. He retired in 1996 and was named Emeritus Professor.

Ernie flourished in his retirement, taking up photography and golf. He spent

the winters in Florida and traveled around the world. The most important part was the time he spent with his family and especially his three beautiful granddaughters.

Ernie is survived by his loving wife, Esther, of 64 years, his children Steve, Ron (Susan), and Laurie (Renee), and his granddaughters, Hayden, Eliana, and Meytal.

A private funeral will be held on Sunday, September 12. The service will be live streamed via Zoom. The family will have an informal, outdoor shiva gathering on Monday, September 13 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. at 3649 Tiffany Ridge Lane.

Donations can be made to the Walk to End Alzheimer's, Team Poppy or act.alz.org/goto/poppy, 644 Linn St. #1026, Cinti, OH 45203.

Previous Events

Shiva

SEP **13.** 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

Weil Kahn Funeral Home
8350 Cornell Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45249

Tribute Wall

WH

“ (Personal Message From Jim and Joan)

Joan and I were deeply saddened to learn of Ernie's passing. He had a major impact on the progress of basic research and graduate education at Children's Hospital. I fondly remember his kind and gentle attitude and appreciate his guidance and mentorship over the years. I take his many contributions as good cause to celebrate his life and be thankful for knowing him. Please know that you have our deepest sympathies and that we hope you are doing well. Jim and Joan

Weil Kahn Funeral Home - February 26 at 04:27 PM

BF

“ *Hi Esther:*

Sorry to hear about Ernie. I fondly remember him from when we were neighbors in Sunnyvale. Interestingly he moved from there to Cincinnati around the corner from my brother and his family. I gather he had a very good productive life.

Bob Feigelson

Bob Feigelson - February 18, 2022 at 06:06 PM

ES

So special to hear from you as I go back to memories from so long ago. How does news travel so far from east to west?

esther - February 23, 2022 at 12:49 PM

ES

Thank you for your condolences. It was so good to hear from you. It brought back so many memories of the times we spent together long, long ago. Esther

esther - March 10, 2022 at 09:34 PM

NF

“ I am absolutely devastated to learn of Mr. Zimmerman’s passing. He and his lovely wife Esther were two of my most cherished members at the Mayerson JCC (I worked the welcome desk). I have not returned to work due to covid, but Mr. & Mrs. Z have often been in my thoughts over the last year and a half. I will always, always remember Ernie’s gentle smile & sweet spirit. He reminded me so of my own father whom I lost in 2011. Wishing Esther & the whole Zimmerman family comfort & peace, & may Ernie’s memory forever be a blessing. Much love from Nicole Forbus (& mom Barbara)

Nicole Forbus - September 13, 2021 at 06:26 PM



Thank you Nicole for your kind message. My Mom and Dad always spoke very highly of you and how kind you were when they came to the JCC.

Steve Zimmerman - September 16, 2021 at 10:12 PM

AN

“ I always knew him as "Dr. Zimmerman". I worked with him every summer at Cincinnati Children's Hospital when I was a college student. I was a biology major at Washington University, and during my summer months in Cincinnati, Dr. Zimmerman taught me to do polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, and set up chromatography columns for our research on cleft palate in mice. I learned an enormous amount from him, and was very grateful for that, as it helped build my knowledge base, and understand how to conduct basic research. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing.

Ann Neuer - September 12, 2021 at 10:35 PM



Thank you Ann for your very kind words. It is wonderful to read the positive impact my Dad had on you when you worked with him every summer at Cincinnati Children's Hospital when you were a college student.

Steve Zimmerman - September 13, 2021 at 11:49 PM



Please accept my condolences. I know how hard it is to lose a life's partner.

Roz Chaiken - September 16, 2021 at 02:38 PM

JW

*“Ernie is a dear friend who will be missed. With over thirty years of friendship, we have shared happy events of our children and grandchildren. We had great fun at our monthly Saturday night bridge group and admired Ernie's photographs at the Cincinnati Art Club exhibition.. Following our last dinner date, we returned to Ernie and Esther's home and together reviewed his wonderful collection of photographs. A wonderful memory! Our very precious memory is when Ernie volunteered to photograph our 50th anniversary. He captured everyone attending, as well as candid moments during the evening. The compiled memory book of photographs has a special place on our bookshelf and in our hearts. We miss you Ernie.
John and Joan*

joan wyler - September 12, 2021 at 10:25 AM



Thank you Joan and John for your very kind words. It is wonderful to read your memory of my Dad volunteering to photograph your 50th anniversary.

Steve Zimmerman - September 13, 2021 at 11:51 PM

AF

*Dear Esther and family..I was so sorry to learn of your beloved Ernie had passed. I only know Ernie through you but you eyes would shine when the two of you were together!
Please accept my condolences.
Alice Fegelman*

Alice Fegelman - September 14, 2021 at 10:41 AM



Thank you Alice for your kind message!

Steve Zimmerman - September 16, 2021 at 10:13 PM

SK

The loss of a father hurts. I only know he must've been humble, because I think you are also humble. Keep your shoelaces tight

Spencer Konicov - September 20, 2021 at 02:52 PM