

Memorial Minute for David Horn
(June 29, 1933 – August 26, 2016)

[Largely from an obituary published in *The Athens Messenger*]

David Lane Horn died on August 26, 2016, of Parkinson's disease. Born on June 29, 1933, in Columbus, Ohio, he received a B.S. from Oberlin College in botany and chemistry and an M.S. from The Ohio State University in agricultural engineering. David served two years as an officer in the Marines. He worked for the Soil Conservation Service and the Agency for International Development before buying an Athens County farm, where he raised feeder calves.

David was a lifelong Democrat. While organizing southeast Ohio for the anti-Vietnam War presidential candidate George McGovern, he became aware of how parties in power rigged voting districts by gerrymandering them. With the League of Women Voters and the Council of Churches, he introduced bills into the Ohio Legislature eight times advocating objective criteria for choosing redistricting maps, and competitive submissions from citizen map makers. He wrote a 500-page study of past reform efforts, "Gerrymander Analysis and Remedy," with assistance from Charles Hampton. It is now online at the website of the University of Akron's Bliss Institute of Applied Politics.

David was an active member of the American Civil Liberties Union, the League of Women Voters, and the Athens Friends Meeting. In 2010, David and Helen Horn turned their 100-acre farm into a bird, plant, and tree sanctuary called the Woodcock Nature Preserve. This year, the Athens Nature Conservancy gave David its annual Stewardship Award.

David is survived by his wife of 50 years, Helen Horn; their daughter, Rebecca Ferguson, and her husband, Douglas; his grandchildren, Andrea and Eric; his sister, Nancy Ewald; and his brother, Don Horn.

A memorial gathering to honor his life was held on October 1 at the Athens Friends Meeting House. Memorial donations may be made to the Friends Committee on National Legislation Education Fund.