



John Charles Foltz passed on January 7, 2021 at Friendship Village of Dublin from complications of COVID19, with his family at his side. He was 87 years old. He was born in West Lafayette, Ohio on February 23, 1933 – this was just as FDR closed the banks! All of his father's funds were in the local bank – so, with no money to pay the hospital, he was born at home. That “political trick” resulted in his becoming a “life-long” Republican. His parents were Ralph Monroe Foltz and Mary Ruth Karr – known as RM and Ruth. He is survived by his beloved wife, Anne Clark, formerly of Rio Grande. They were married June 24, 1956. He is survived by two children – son, Dr. John Clark Foltz (Barbara) and their children, John Richard (Jessica) and James Clark (Michelle); and daughter Dr. Mary Elizabeth Arensberg (Bradley), and their children, Mark and Sarah, and 4 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his older brother Ralph R. Foltz (Betty). He grew up in Bremen, Ohio, was a class officer all through high school and was valedictorian of his graduating class. He was president of his 4-H club and especially active in the Future Farmers of America (FFA) – becoming State

President, a week after graduating from High School. He was elected president of the Junior Fair Board for the Ohio State Fair. The experience (at that time) that was especially meaningful, was his four summers at Camp Miniwanca – the Christian Leadership program, sponsored by the American Youth Foundation. Learning of “Four-fold” living (physical, social, mental and religious) and keeping them in balance (in a “four-square life” was a life-changing event – at an impactful stage of his life! Their motto of “My own self, at my very best, at all time” made an impact. This guide to living stayed with him through to the end. He won a four-year competitive scholarship to the Ohio State University. He was selected for the United States Navy officers training program and commissioned upon graduation in June, 1955. At OSU, he joined Alpha Zeta agricultural fraternity. His entry, as Chronicler, won 1st place at the national AZ Conclave. Later in his agricultural career, he served several terms on the AZ High Council. His college days were noteworthy, leading to selection for Towers agricultural Leadership honorary and Gamma Sigma Delta, the honor society of agriculture and singing as a member of the OSU Men’s Glee Club. As a new Ensign in the Navy, he was off to gunnery school in California – then across the Pacific to catch up with his ship, USS Tolovana (AO-64), in southern Japan. Cruising with the 7th Fleet, making port in some “back-water” villages, was a real learning experience. A visit to the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong was a highlight of that tour of duty – he bought the diamond for Anne’s engagement ring while there. While in that store, he was mistaken for actor Jimmy Stewart – which happened several times during his life (Hong Kong was a popular destination for

movie stars at that time). Next, came orders to report to the Naval Schools Command, at the Naval Station in Newport, Rhode Island – using his gunnery officer experience to become a Naval weapons instructor, in the U.S. Navy’s Officer Candidate School. Marriage to Anne, enroute, followed by promotion to LTjg, set the scene for his New England experience. Anne soon followed him to Newport and, just before being released from active duty, their first-born – John Clark – arrived on the scene. The next big change in their newlywed lives was moving to northern Virginia, where he went on the staff of the ***National Future Farmer*** magazine. Those years as a leader in FFA paid off. He then moved up to FFA public relations manager and on to director of the FFA Foundation. About then, the political winds changed, and the GOP came back into power. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) was staffing up and he was appointed to work in the office of the Secretary of Agriculture. He soon became Deputy Under Secretary for Congressional Relations. Next came an assignment with the Foreign Agricultural Service, as Assistant Administrator for Market Development. He traveled the world – promoting American farm products, and increasing American agricultural exports – and farmer’s incomes! All good things seem destined to come to an end, and so a change in Federal Administrations took his family back to Ohio. Ohio Governor Jim Rhodes named him as an Ohio Commodore (a goodwill ambassador for the state). John Stackhouse (then Ohio Director of Agriculture) appointed him as Director of the ODA Division of Markets. It wasn’t long before George Greenleaf picked him to be “heir-apparent” of the Ohio Grain, Feed and Fertilizer Association. With Greanleaf’s

retirement it became the Ohio Agribusiness Association. Subsequently, with the GOP back in control of DC, Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter called to ask him back to staff-up USDA. This time it was a Presidential (Senate-confirmed) appointment as Administrator of the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS). Going through the very thorough FBI full field investigation and then the Senate confirmation hearing was another once-in-a-lifetime episode. As a White House appointee, this was considered a sub-Cabinet appointment. So, when the Secretary was out-of-town, John was the acting Secretary of Agriculture. Another change of administrations sent him to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) as an Assistant Commissioner. This involved regulation of the “trading houses” in Chicago and New York – a bunch of tough players (who want to play by “their own rules.”) After all these challenging assignments, it was time to retire back to Ohio (and take a rest!) Soon came the opportunity to join with Anne in a major fund-raising effort – to build the new Ohio 4-H Center. It is now the “go to” facility for many ag meetings at OSU. His professional ag fraternity had become Alpha Tau Zeta (ATZ), but was struggling as a “stand alone” chapter. He brokered the deal to bring FarmHouse (the stand-out national ag fraternity) to OSU. It was a “perfect fit” and brought the original Ag fraternity up to par. Once back in his “home state” new opportunities and “assignments” started coming. His professional trade experience had earned him the Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation. He had board appointments to: American Feed Industry; USDA Extension and Research Advisory Board; Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC)

Support Council; Ohio Beef Association; County Farm Bureau; State Farm Bureau rural development advisory team; the OSU Alumni Advisory committee and eMerge Interactive (a high tech food safety firm start-up). He did international study tours to Brazil, Israel and Hawaii. In addition, he served as President of the Ohio Agricultural Council, ATZ alumni Board, and the “50 year club” of the Ohio State Fair. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Feed Industry; Ohio Farm Bureau and the OSU College of Agriculture. He was further recognized with induction into the Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame. Memorial donations in lieu of flowers can be given to the Foltz Family Fund scholarship at the Ohio State University <https://go.osu.edu/foltzfamilyfund> ; The Farm Foundation <https://www.farmfoundation.org/donate>; or FarmHouseFraternity Foundation https://farmhouse.org/foundation/making_gift.htm; The Ohio 4H Foundation <https://ohio4h.org/give-now> . Due to COVID19, a memorial service will be held at Friendship Village at a future date. Arrangements entrusted to Rutherford Corbin in Worthington.