**James Felder**

Jim Felder was born in Orangeburg, South Carolina and was the eleventh of thirteen children, however only six lived to maturity. He attended the public schools in Orangeburg and was able to attend a local college, Clafin University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree at age 20. In 1951, after graduation, he enlisted in the Air Force, eventually becoming an officer in charge of a hospital’s clinical laboratory. In 1954 he left active duty, but remained in the Air Force Reserve.

Felder attended graduate school at Ohio State University, and eventually obtained a Master’s degree in Biological Sciences from Wright State University. He had begun working in the medical field at 12 years old when he was hired as an orderly at an Orangeburg hospital. He spent one year as a microbiologist at Saint Elizabeth Hospital in Dayton, Ohio before accepting the same position at Middletown Hospital in Middletown, Ohio where he spent 31 years, retiring in 1991.

In 1955 Felder married Betty Thomas. The couple moved to Yellow Springs in 1962 where they raised their sons Gregory and Kevin. In Yellow springs Felder became active in many community organizations. He served as Vice President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, helping to raise funds for the local library. He was Chairman of the local Red Cross Blood Drive. He was a member and actor with Yellow Springs Center State, and a singer on the Geri hart show on WPFB Middletown. He served as Chairman of the Human Relations Commission of Yellow Springs, and served at various times as Chairman and Co-Chairman of the annual Strawberry and Apple festivals hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Yellow Springs. He also served as a Session member for First Presbyterian. He has been a volunteer driver for the Yellow Springs Senior Center for more than 20 years. He was a member of the first group of coaches for the Yellow Springs soccer program. Felder won the Ohio Senior Olympic Men’s Raquetball Championship in 1996, and in 1997 was a member of Ohio’s team at the Senior Olympics held in Tucson, Arizona.

*James Felder*