



Edward LeRoy Bender, MD

June 19, 1945 - November 20, 2023

Edward L Bender was born June 19, 1945 in Valley City, North Dakota, to Lyle and Helen (Rasmusson) Bender and grew up on farms in Dazey, ND and Cooperstown, ND. He graduated valedictorian from Cooperstown High School in 1963 in a class of 38 students. He graduated from the University of North Dakota with a Bachelor's degree and then went to the UND Medical School, a two year school. He transferred to the CU Medical School in Denver for two more years where he received his MD degree.

Ed married Marjean Loge on June 9th, 1968 and they adopted two children, siblings Casandra and Jason in 1974.

Ed joined the Navy after med school and interned in the Navy in San Diego. He then did a two year family practice residency at Camp Pendleton Marine base and had two more years there as pay back time.

The family moved to Fort Collins in 1976 where Ed joined the Family Clinic of Fort Collins, retiring in 2013. His patients loved him. He had patience for patients and saw them everywhere: Disneyworld, National Parks and even at the Tower of London.

Sports were a big part of Ed's life. He was a lifelong Yankees fan; he and Marjean went to games in both the old and the new stadium. He enjoyed

playing softball and tennis and won many trophies. He had what he called, a love affair with playing basketball and played it for over 50 years. He also was a scuba diver until he had one lung removed for cancer.

If there was a ball moving at CSU, Ed and Marjean were there to watch it, having season tickets to football, volleyball, and men's and women's basketball and going to the CSU conference basketball tournaments 33 years in a row except the Covid year.

He was an avid gardener, growing more vegetables than two people could eat so he gave a lot away. He was also a very successful beekeeper and got many pounds of honey each year which he used, gave away, and sold.

Ed and Marjean raised alpacas for over 20 years on their five acre small farm, having over 30 babies over the years.

Ed loved to sing and was in four different choirs. His bass will be missed by many.

Ed and Marjean did a lot of traveling. They have visited all 50 states, went on several European cruises, went to Peru and saw Machu Pichu, to London and Paris for their 50th wedding anniversary, and just returned from a two week trip to three countries in Africa, going on two game drives a day for three days in each country. Two very special trips for him were a hike up Longs' Peak with his son Jason and a rafting trip on the Colorado river down the Grand Canyon also with Jason.

He leaves behind his wife of 55 years, Marjean, children Casandra and Jason, grandson Cody, three brothers: George (Sandra), Gerry (Carole) and David, plus many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held 2 pm, Monday, December 4, 2023 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 2000 S. Lemay Ave., Ft. Collins, CO 80525. You may view the live stream of the service by going to <https://our-saviours.org/memorials/>.

Memorials may be sent to High Plains Honor Flight, PO Box 363, Ault CO 80610 or Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Choir, 2000 S Lemay Ave, Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 4. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (MT)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
2000 South Lemay Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80525-1204

Tribute Wall

SC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Scott - December 05, 2023 at 11:17 AM

SC

Ed was such an important part of "old guy" basketball, he will be missed by us all. His love of the game and the fellowship he shared with all of us was truly a blessing.

Scott - December 05, 2023 at 11:19 AM

RC

“ *Ed Bender was our family doctor, our neighbor, and a special friend. Ed was always so kind and genuine, and it was always a pleasure to visit with him. Marjean, Cassie, Jason, we are saddened to hear of his passing and we will miss him. Our hearts go out to you during this difficult time, but we can all find comfort in knowing that Ed is now in heaven. Love, Rich & Cathy Cinkel*

Rich Cinkel - December 03, 2023 at 06:49 PM

RS

“ Ed's gift of song has been blessing Our Savior's Lutheran church for many years. Ed sat behind me and Marjean sat directly in front of me. Their relationship is an example for all of us. Ed's doctoring and mentoring of so many including myself, will never be forgotten. God bless you Marjean and family, with beautiful memories of Ed. May God hold this wonderful doctor and friend in the palm of his hand and may we gather again to rejoice and sing one fine day.

Rebecca Shelley - December 02, 2023 at 03:27 PM

TC

“ Dr. Bender was our family doctor for many years. He delivered both my children. When my second came unusually fast, he sped to the hospital, getting stopped by police, then after explaining, received a police escort. He entered my room with time for nurses to put a gown/gloves on him and he stepped over and caught my daughter in his caring hands. We laughed about that incident for years. He always took my late night calls when he knew I was worn out and exasperated with my difficult baby. What a truly great man the world has lost. Sending love to all his family, friends and colleagues.



THERESE CINOTTO - November 30, 2023 at 10:47 AM

PM

Dr Bender was our family doctor for many years. He was present for all 5 of our children's births. I appreciated his willingness to listen and consider a Mamma's intuition. Many times when I would take a child to him he would ask "so, tell me what is wrong?" Most times I had guessed correctly. I remember one time he told me "gotcha, you are wrong this time". My favorite memory was the time he came to check up on me in the hospital after a C-section birth of our son. He pushed my feet out of the way, climbed up on the foot of the bed and we ate lunch together. So many more come to mind. So long Doctor Ed Bender. You were a great blessing to our family and will be missed.

Patty Michaud - December 01, 2023 at 12:47 AM

GT

“ We loved Dr Bender as our doctor for many years. As others have mentioned, he was an incredibly kind and caring man and an awesome physician. I especially appreciated this as a new mom nearly 40 years ago. I remember he called me at home a few days after our son was born to see how things were going and to offer understanding and encouragement. This was just one of many kindnesses he extended during our journey of raising children. I also appreciated his musical abilities and enjoyed seeing him participating in Lutheran Men of Song. The world has lost an incredible man. My condolences to all of his family and friends.



Gwen Tucker - November 30, 2023 at 10:22 AM

MS

“ Ed Bender was our family doctor from 1985 until he retired. I asked the woman from HP who was helping us move here for a referral, and she told me how he had given her his home phone number when she was due to deliver her baby and he wasn't going to be on call. I was sold! One of my best memories of him is his first question to me on every visit - "How old are you now?" Probably after the first time I began to say, "I'm still younger than you!" He would chuckle and we would go on with whatever malady had brought me to him at the moment. I was so happy to have found such a kind, caring man for a doctor; one who spent as much time with you as you needed AND had a sense of humor! Ed was a rare find and it was wonderful to see him no matter the reason. Thank you, all you Benders, for sharing him with us patients!

Melissa Shay - November 29, 2023 at 06:51 PM

JJ

“ I was just thinking about Dr. Bender the other day. He was our doctor for a while, and my husband played early morning basketball with him at the church. I am glad he had such a full life before and after retirement as he deserved it.

Jean Jasinski - November 29, 2023 at 09:41 AM

AB

“ Dr. Bender delivered my brother and I at PVH in the 80's and was our Dr. all of our growing up years. I have many memories of the playhouse he had in the waiting room at Family Clinic. He had a calming presence and kind smile; was always so gentle and comforting to be around. Years later, he became my first baby's Dr. for the first couple years of his life. That was very special!

Dr. Bender came to my parents' house multiple times to attend my brothers' & my graduation parties. He came to my wedding. He wasn't just a doctor—he became a special part of peoples lives. Thank you for your years of wonderful service to your community, Dr. Bender! You will be sorely missed! Our lives are richer because of knowing you. Thank you, to his family, for sharing such a wonderful man with all of us. We will never forget him. May you be comforted during this sad time. ❤️

Anna Brndiar - November 26, 2023 at 10:55 PM

DL

“ *Dr Bender was our doctor for many years .He also became our friend as he always seemed to care .It was a sad day for many when he retired we missed his caring care.After we joined our saviors he always greeted us or would give a little wave.He will be missed so much .A big thank you to his wife for sharing him. Gods speed old friend .Myron and Donna Lloyd*



Donna Lloyd - November 26, 2023 at 08:10 PM

CB

“ *Ed was a GREAT friend for the past 10 years. Long monthly breakfast meetings during which we shared MANY stories of our life experiences.
Also sold and loaded hay for his alpacas for many years. Truly a wonderful couple that I was BLESSED to know both Ed and Marjean and will miss our times together*

curtis bridges - November 26, 2023 at 07:12 PM

GB

“ *1 file added to the album Edward Bender, MD*



Gerry and Carole Bender - November 26, 2023 at 04:09 PM



“ *My favorite primary care doc in Fort Collins. Even when I saw him in public at CSU events he always asked how I was feeling!! I was saddened when he retired, and am saddened now with this news! Thank you for sharing him with us!!*

Laryl Laetsch - November 26, 2023 at 11:58 AM



“ *Ed was so kind to attend my wife's Celebration of Life. Then he came to shoot buckets at the Senior Center. It was very kind. Then he disappeared. But I am thankful for the many years we shared. He came to Fort Collins about the time I came and we quickly became patients and friends. I know your loss. PEACE!
Dan Dean*

dan dean - November 26, 2023 at 10:51 AM



“ *Marjean, You won't remember me, but I am one of the legions of drug reps that adored Ed. He was everything good that being a doctor is. He and I shared a long love affair with basketball and I played basketball against him at the Fort Collins Club for years. I once had a car accident in Akron, CO where I flipped and rolled my car and suffered a moderate concussion. Doug Deyoung was my doctor in that practice ad he wasn't in that day. Ed styaed after hours for when I arrived back at 5 PM and he cared for me with the concern like I was his son. Even called the neurologist and got me to see him that early evening too. Touched me so deeply. I figure he did that with all of his patients. I am so so sorry for the loss of the love of your life. My prayers are with you Marjean. Mike Hester*

Mike Hester - November 26, 2023 at 06:05 AM

CO

“ *Ed Bender was the kindest, the wisest, most compassionate man I ever met. He was a superb family Doctor and I was so lucky to have him as my Doctor! He amazed me that he could remember all of my maladies over the many years without looking at my chart! He kept up with everything that was going on with me like an old friend. He always had time for me and gave me the best care. I am so saddened to hear of his passing. He had such a bright smile and always made me smile.*

My heart goes out to Marjean and all of his family, With Deepest Sympathy. I know how much he will be missed.

Connie Ohlson

Connie Ohlson - November 25, 2023 at 09:55 PM

GB

“ *1 file added to the album Edward Bender, MD*



GERALD LYLE BENDER - November 25, 2023 at 03:51 PM

MM

“ *1 file added to the album Edward Bender, MD*



Margo Geppert, MD - November 24, 2023 at 06:02 PM

MM

It was such a fun surprise to see Ed and Marjean at the Tower of London. They were on the anniversary trip. Tim and Margo Geppert

Margo Geppert, MD - November 24, 2023 at 11:05 PM

KM

“ *Ed was a wonderful member of our Larimer Choral Society Silvertones choir. When he came into the rehearsal room at Christ United Methodist Church, he always shared a great smile letting you know he was ready to sing. He really loved singing and he had a great voice. Thank you, Ed, we will miss you. Keith and Joyce Metcalf*

Keith & Joyce Metcalf - November 23, 2023 at 10:10 PM

AS

“ *Dr. Bender you were my doctor, advisor, and father figure for more than 30 years. You delivered my baby and you attended my wounds and heart for so many years. I will miss you terribly but will so glad to see you and walk into your loving arms when it's my turn to cross over. Until then, love always, Amy*

Amy Sage - November 23, 2023 at 12:02 PM

ST

“ *On this Thanksgiving day, I share how thankful I am to have had Ed as a practice partner, friend and neighbor. During our 37 years of partnership, he demonstrated superb technical expertise as a physician. Perhaps more impressive, however, was his true caring for his patients, and his rapport with everyone. He was a true gentleman, who treated all with respect and acceptance. A life well lived and ended too soon.*

Steve Thorson

Steve Thorson - November 23, 2023 at 10:55 AM

DS

“ I saddened to learn of the death of Ed. He profile of friendship and leadership stands above! My sympathies to Marjean and families. Heaven gained a Saint!

David Sola - November 23, 2023 at 05:01 AM

KG

“ My heart hurts so much at hearing of the loss of my friend. Dr Bender hired me at the Family Clinic and was not only my boss, but became my trusted friend through some very difficult times in my life. He checked on me regularly to make sure I was doing okay. I loved him so much and will miss him dearly. Marjean and family, you are in my thoughts and prayers.
Keli Gogarty

Keli Gogarty - November 23, 2023 at 03:02 AM

PA

“ My heart aches at the loss of Ed. He was one of the really special guys. Marjean, my sympathy to you and your kids. You and Ed made a beautiful pair. Blessings on his memory.

Patricia Jacobson Alm - November 22, 2023 at 10:37 PM

CY

“ We are so very sad to hear of the passing of Dr. Bender. He was our doctor at the Family Clinic for over 40 years. Dr Bender was the kindest, most caring and loving man we have ever known. He always took the time to listen and asked about all of our family members. He helped me through and assisted in surgery for breast cancer and my husband's heart problems. We were sad when he retired and we haven't found a doctor who cares as much as he did. He is definitely one in a million! The world has lost a great man!

*With our love and prayers,
Randy & Carol Yaussi*

Carol Yaussi - November 22, 2023 at 08:22 PM

SL

Ed was our family doctor for years. When Don developed cancer he helped with his, surgeries and made House Calls later!!! We would see them at CSU basketball games and he and Marjean were Boosters Of The Year several years ago. An amazing , caring man. Don and Sue Lyon.

susan lyon - November 22, 2023 at 09:24 PM

DL

Sympathy to Marjean and family for the loss of Ed! Many will never forget this man from Cooperstown ND. Over and above all his accomplishments as a young student and athlete in his home town, Ed will be remembered as a gracious, humble and caring guy that he was to all.

Duey Lura - November 22, 2023 at 09:44 PM

MM

I am saddened to see that Dr Bender has passed on. I really enjoyed working Birthing Center with him and being one of his patients. He was a wonderful human being.

Mim Miller - November 22, 2023 at 09:46 PM

JK

My heart is broken with this. Dr Bender was the very best doctor and friend. He always listened and was just the most caring person. He will be missed.

Joyce Kohlmeier - November 22, 2023 at 10:47 PM

DL

Sympathy and blessings to you and yours, Marjean! David and Colleen Lura

David G. Lura - November 23, 2023 at 12:27 AM

SC

My heart was so terribly sad to hear of Dr. Benders passing. What a joy to work with him and eat his honey. What a kind, generous, loving doctor.

Sending Marjean and family peace and comfort at this sad time 😞 Sue Cove, Littleton.

Sue Cove - November 23, 2023 at 12:30 AM

WF

Our family doctor for nearly 30 years, Ed Bender oversaw birth, death, and everything in between for Janet, Erin, and myself. His compassion and knowledge were immeasurable. Our loss is the Heavenly Choir of Angels gain.

Wendell Frey - November 23, 2023 at 08:22 AM

DM

Dr. Ed Bender became my physician in 1980, when he was the 'company doc' for UPS. He was there for the birth of my 2 boys, along with Dr. Steve Yemm and my mid-wife, Dian Sparling. Always kind and thoughtful through our growing family issues. I would run into him occasionally and he always took a moment to say hello and ask about my family. I am so grateful to have had his nurturing kindness while I was raising my boys. He is one of the golden ones. Sending love to his family.

Diana Maehlum

Diana Maehlum - November 23, 2023 at 10:50 AM

SA

I was a high school classmate of Ed's and all the comments I have been reading described the same guy I knew in Cooperstown. He was an athlete, smart, kind, handsome, all-around great guy then and it sounds like that didn't change. My sympathy to you Marjean and your family.

Shirley J. Alwin - November 23, 2023 at 03:01 PM

MM

*We are stunned to learn of Dr. Bender's death. I can echo the sentiments that have been mentioned already. Dr. Bender was a mentor, teacher, our family physician for all the years we have been in Fort Collins until his retirement. He helped my husband and me raise our three daughters--of course now, all adults. He truly "listened" to you when you spoke with him--no matter what role he was serving at that moment--friend, teacher, mentor, family physician or avid sports enthusiast or traveler.
Marjean and family--our hearts break for you and all who knew and loved Ed. He is already missed.*

Love, Margo & Tim Geppert, Molly, Ellen Nielsen and Ceily.

Margo J Gepeprt, MD - November 24, 2023 at 05:12 PM

ST

Dr. Ed is what we'd call him in morning basketball 🏀 at the LDS Church.

Played basketball for years with Dr. Ed....great man and always a pleasure to chat with him in between games. May he RIP! Til we play again!

Steve - November 24, 2023 at 11:19 PM

PD

He walked softly and graciously. It was an honor to know him. From patients Mike and Pamela Dahl

Pamela Dahl - November 25, 2023 at 12:56 PM

PH

I'm so sorry to learn of Dr. Bender's passing. He delivered both of my children. He gave me the phone number for the gym- he played basketball in the morning before work- in case I went into labor! He was a wonderful doctor and role model for me. I went to the Physician Assistant program at the University of North Dakota. That's when I learned he also attended UND. He sent me a clipping from the alumni magazine when I graduated with a nice note. He was a wonderful, caring doctor. My condolences to the family.

Pam Harrold

Pam Harrold - November 26, 2023 at 10:36 AM

JS

I knew Dr. Bender for MANY years-since 1980 when I was a nurse in the Birthing Center. My family quickly switched to him for our Family Care! We stayed with him as our family physician until his retirement. He was amazing for our family-helping us traverse through physical and emotional challenges. My children adored him and I trusted him beyond any other physician. Although I was happy for him to retire, I cried when he told me. I never met you Margean but I am so sorry for your loss. My best to you and your family.

Jery Sigl - November 26, 2023 at 11:00 AM

KS

*Dr. Ed was my primary physician and friend for some 40 years. We were the same age and competed in rec basketball games in earlier times.
When I was recommended for back surgery Ed convinced me to forgo it and do extensive rehabilitation exercises that worked.
Just looking at the tributes pouring in speak to how well he was thought of.
Rest in peace for a life so well lived.*

Kelsey Smith

kelsey smith - November 27, 2023 at 11:35 AM

JE

Marjean and family, Jack and I were so saddened to hear for Ed's passing. We have such fond memories of parties at your house supporting CSU'S women's basketball team. Sitting behind you at the games. You both always had a friendly greeting. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Jack and Joan Ewing

Joan Ewing - November 27, 2023 at 02:05 PM

RC

What a gentle, caring soul Ed was. My parents greatly appreciated him as their doctor, friend and cohort in choir at Our Saviors. He was with us when my Mom passed away. Ed would go out of his way to visit with Judy and I at CSU games and would always ask about our family. I am sorry for your loss, Marjean and family.

Rhys Christensen - November 28, 2023 at 03:58 PM

SC

As we'd sit next to the chicken coop doing "recess duty" for the little ones (and scooping up the explorers who squeezed their way through the fence), Ed and I talked. We discussed big things and little things... politics, community, the human condition (the highs and lows), the past, and the future. And, of course, chickens.

I was one of the lucky ones, even if for too short a time. I hope to see you around the bend, Ed.

Sandy Connally

Sandy Connally - November 29, 2023 at 08:46 AM

BM

We are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Ed. He was an outstanding physician and extraordinary man who always demonstrated kindness and compassion. He had a positive impact on the life of so many. We fondly remember our years of gourmet club dinners for both menus and time with friends. Marjean we are holding you and the children in our hearts and prayers during this time of loss.

Larry and Bev Moline

Bev Moline - November 30, 2023 at 03:23 PM

IE

I greatly admired Ed. He was humble despite his accomplishments and I always left our conversations smiling. Ed serves as an example of a life well lived. Marjean, peace to you and your family. I am so sorry for your loss.

Isaac Essay - December 04, 2023 at 11:14 AM

BR

*Our lives feel empty today, we just learned of your passing. Rest in peace our dear Dr. Bender, you earned your angel wings. God bless you and our condolences to your family.
Brenda Rosenquist and family*

Brenda Rosenquist - December 19, 2023 at 01:47 PM