



William "Bill" F. McTernan, III

July 18, 1948 - November 6, 2015

William F. McTernan III, (Bill) passed from this life in Fort Collins, Colorado on November 6, 2015 after a brief illness. Born on July 18, 1948 in Casper, Wyoming, Bill was the son of William F. and Josephine K. McTernan. He grew up in Casper, graduating from Natrona County High School in 1966.

Bill attended the University of Wyoming earning a Bachelors degree in Biology and a Masters degree in Water Resources. After working at VTN Colorado and the Wyoming Water Resources Research Institute, he returned to school to earn a PhD in Environmental Sciences and Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. While at Virginia Tech, he met Elizabeth M. (Beth) Littlefield and they married in 1980 just before returning to Laramie, Wyoming to work for the Department of Energy, Laramie Energy Technology Center. In 1985 Bill accepted a faculty position in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Oklahoma State University where he remained, achieving the rank of Professor, until his retirement in 2013. Teaching was Bill's first love and it was the interaction with his students that he enjoyed most. Over the course of his tenure he advised and guided over 190 graduate students through their degrees and on to successful careers.

You can take the man out of Wyoming, but not Wyoming out of the man. Bill loved the Wyoming mountains area, especially the Snowy Range Mountains, Jackson Hole and Vedawoo. In retirement he was able to return to the region

he loved and enjoyed hiking, biking, brewing his own beer and was active in the community. He loved traveling with the family for vacations and soccer games. He was a wonderful husband and best friend to Beth and was devoted to his two sons, Jim and Mike, following all their activities with great joy.

Bill is survived by his loving wife Elizabeth M. (Beth); sons, James A. McTernan and Michael P. McTernan of Fort Collins; grandson, Tanner Czerny of Murray, Utah; father in law, David Littlefield of Syracuse, NY; brother in law, Thomas Littlefield; brother in law, Charles Littlefield and his wife, Rebecca of Watertown, NY; niece, Caitlin Littlefield of Watertown, NY; niece, Pauline Quay and her husband, Jeff and grandniece, Colette of Watertown, NY; sister in law, Martha Littlefield; and an uncle, Jerry Melvin of Syracuse, NY.

The family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the nurses, doctors and staff of the cardiac intensive care unit of Medical Center of the Rockies for their incredible dedication, compassion and care for Bill and all of us.

Donations in Bill's memory can be made to the Food Bank for Larimer County or Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive, Fort Collins, CO 80524.

Honoring his wishes, the family will scatter his ashes in the Snowy Range Mountains at a later date. There will be no memorial service.

Tribute Wall

DW

“ Beth, Jim, and Mike-

What a difficult time you must have been through. I'm so sorry to hear about Bill. I know you'll miss him dearly. May God wrap his arms around you, comfort you as only he can do.

Love,

*Darla, TJ, Jared, and Lindsey Webb
405-269-6981*

Darla Webb - November 13, 2015 at 10:44 PM

CE

“ Beth,

Allan and I were so sad to read Bill's obituary in the NewsPress. Please know that you and the boys are in our thoughts and prayers now and that you will continue to be. You were so good to us in Stillwater and it was always a pleasure to experience Bill's teaching and research accomplishments at OSU. May you be blessed with strength and peace going forward. With sincerest sympathies,

Carol and Allan Engle and family

Carol Engle - November 13, 2015 at 09:03 PM

DN

“ Bill and I shared the following experience's before he met Beth.

I drove his half coyote dog Tippy from Casper Wyoming to Chicago.

We restored his English Ford after he was in an accident.

After I told him I dove off the 20ft high dive, he took me to an 80ft cliff in Casper and told his friends that I was an experienced high diver.

My wife's brother Bill and I hiked down the Rattle Snake infested Devils Canyon in the Big Horn Mountains to catch trout. I got arsenic poisoning. from the crystal clear water.

I loved him like my little Brother

Uncle Don Neumann

Don Neumann - November 13, 2015 at 12:39 PM

TN

“ Jacquie and I are so saddened to learn of Bill's passing. Bill was on my Master's committee and hired me into my first real job in 1984. I'll never forget cleaning tar sand residual out of flotation columns over and over again in the lab in Blacksburg VA – and it was totally worth it to realize my dream of moving to WY and working as an engineer. He and Beth made us feel right at home in Laramie. We had good times – whether hiking and picnicking in the Snowy Range or just hanging out and watching an old western. Bill was my good friend and mentor, and he had my back. I didn't realize how much until he and the family moved to OK and I had to negotiate the workplace environment on my own. Bill was a true original and his loyalty, intellect, creativity, and keen wit were something to behold. Goodbye my friend, we are going to miss you.

Tom and Jacquie Nolan - November 12, 2015 at 07:39 PM

ML

“ Beth - I was so sorry to hear this! Sincerest condolences to you and the family.

Mary Larson

Mary Larson - November 11, 2015 at 01:14 PM

GR

“ Beth:

So sorry about the you and your family's loss of Bill. He was much too young to go. Bill was a mentor of mine and responsible for launching me into my career in water resources management. I enjoyed working with him at WRRRI and especially enjoyed our ling drives up to the Powder River Basin. He always had a lot of good anecdotes and a unique perspective on life. Please let me know if there is anything Marla and I can do.

Gary Rosenlieb

Gary Rosenlieb - November 11, 2015 at 11:24 AM

MP

“ Dear Beth, I was sorry to hear of the passing of Bill this morning. You and your family are in my prayers.

Marneth Weaver Pringle.

Marneth Pringle - November 11, 2015 at 10:29 AM

DT

“ Beth: I'm so sorry to hear about the passing of Bill. My heart goes out to you and your family.

David Thomas

David Thomas - November 11, 2015 at 07:37 AM

MH

“ Dear Beth, Jim & Mike,
It is with great sadness that we read of Bill's death in today's NewsPress. Laughter. That's what we think of. Times when the four of us would cross paths and Bill and Harold could start a conversation about almost anything. Then the laughter would start. Good times. I was telling Harold that the last time we saw you was at Boomerang Restaurant and you were moving out "West". As in leaving that day and for good.

A good life taken way too soon. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Mary Ellen Holley

Mary Ellen Holley - November 10, 2015 at 10:05 PM