



Dr. William David O'Halloran DPM

August 23, 1946 - April 29, 2024

Dr. William (Bill) David O'Halloran, DPM, of Fort Collins, Colorado, died suddenly on April 29, 2024, in Frisco, Colorado, of a cardiac arrest from a heart attack. Bill was 77 years old.

Bill was born to Leona Mae O'Halloran and William Joseph O'Halloran on August 23, 1946, in Boulder, Colorado. He was the first of their four children. When Bill was a toddler, his father returned to active duty in the United States Navy as a submariner. Bill was particularly proud of his father's participation in the development of the USS Nautilus, the first nuclear submarine. Bill's childhood was spent as a Navy "brat" taking him from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific. He developed a passion for the oceans. During many summers, his parents would load Bill and his three sisters into the station wagon and drive to Colorado to visit relatives. Bill has deep family roots in Colorado, going back to 1858 on his mother's side. During those summers, Bill explored the area around Jamestown where his grandparents had a small cabin. This is where Bill developed one of his other great passions, his love for the Rocky Mountains and all the adventures they had to offer.

Bill was always studying something. He had a need to go in-depth into many subjects. By the time he was twelve, Bill had a perfectly curated and preserved collection of bugs from the Chesapeake Bay area of Maryland. Entomologists from the Smithsonian Institute even wanted to add it to their collection. While living in Connecticut, young Bill learned much of his love and respect for nature from Chief Tantaquidgeon of the Mohegan Tribe. At

fourteen Bill studied falconry and became one of the youngest falconers in the United States.

After Bill graduated from Monterey High School, he went to one year of junior college. In 1965, he enlisted in the Navy and became a submariner like his father. He had several tours patrolling the waters off Vietnam and then was stationed in Hawaii for the remainder of his service. He spent as much time as he could surfing.

Bill moved to Colorado in 1969 to be close to family and to attend Colorado State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology and his teaching credentials. After graduation, Bill taught at Steamboat Springs High School where he met his future wife, Karin Smith. He eventually took the science teacher position at Vail Mountain School. Bill and Karin were married June 13, 1975.

After several years of teaching, Bill decided to change careers. He enrolled in the California College of Podiatric Medicine in San Francisco. He graduated in 1981 with a doctorate in Podiatric Medicine and a minor in Sports Medicine. Bill and Karin's son, Birk O'Halloran, was born on September 21, 1983. After a three-year surgical residency at the VA Hospital in South San Francisco Bill, Karin, and Birk moved to Denver, Colorado, where Bill joined a podiatry practice.

In 1986 Bill and Karin established their own practice, The Foot of the Mountain Clinic, in Fort Collins, Colorado. They ran it successfully together for the next 33 years. Bill was on staff at Poudre Valley Hospital where he was a podiatric surgeon. Eventually, his caring nature brought him to specialize in wound care at the hospital's wound care clinic where he worked for over twenty years. He was a deeply respected member of the Fort Collins medical community and turned countless colleagues into dear friends over his career. Bill and Karin's daughter, Breila O'Halloran was born on April 6, 1991. Bill loved his family. Birk and Breila were the lights of his life. He loved taking them on his many adventures and spending time with them. His three grandsons brought even more joy. He was happy that the O'Halloran name

would live on through them.

Bill was proud of his Irish heritage and enjoyed being a member of the O'Halloran Clan: his mom and dad, three sisters, and lots of nieces and nephews, and great-nieces and great-nephews. He will always be remembered for the joy he took in the many family gatherings on holidays, birthdays, and no-day-in-particular gatherings at his parents' home, regaling everyone with his puns, stories, and details of his latest interests.

Bill was a loving son. During the Covid pandemic, Bill helped to care for his father in his final months of life, so his father could stay at home surrounded by loved ones. After his father passed away, Bill was his mother's rock, visiting her often, helping to maintain her home, and being her chauffeur.

In 2019, Bill sold his podiatry practice, leaving him more time to pursue his love of the ocean, conservation, and biology. He loved being out at sea and under sail or doing research about how to help save the oceans.

Many people will remember Bill for his adventuresome spirit. He was always trying to recruit someone to join him on one of his many, many adventures. Bill was a skier, both downhill and cross-country. He was an ice climber and rock climber. He loved to race his sailboat, scuba, and surf. He was an avid runner and hiker.

Through it all Bill collected friends the way most people collect souvenirs.

Bill spent his last day, like so many in his life, adventuring in his beloved Rocky Mountains. Right to the end, he was doing what he loved, eating, drinking, and telling stories in the company of friends.

Bill is survived by his wife, Karin (Smith) O'Halloran, son, Birk (Lisa), daughter, Breila O'Halloran, his three grandsons, Teig, Aidan, and Seamus O'Halloran, his beloved mother, Leona (Hertzke) O'Halloran, his three sisters, Kathleen Peel (Larry), Annie Schlax, and Bethany O'Halloran, and many nephews and nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces.

If you wish to honor Bill's memory, donations made in his name to one of the

many causes he was so passionate about will be greatly appreciated:

Ocean Missions (<https://oceanmissions.org/make-a-donation/>)

Community Sailing of Colorado (<https://www.communitysailing.org/donation/>)

Rocky Mountain Conservancy (<https://rmconservancy.org/join-or-give/donate/>)

Draken Viking Sailing (<https://www.drakenhh.com/donate>)

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 5. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (MT)

Bohlender Funeral Chapel
121 W. Olive Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Tribute Wall

AB

“ I met Dr O❤️ and Mrs. Karen O❤️ when I was 11 yrs old. I had a very small fracture in my right foot. I needed surgery so Dr O was the Doc to do it!

I thought he was the best Doc from the beginning. He was so nice and I thought as a young girl "what a cool doc!" He made jokes and made me feel at ease. Both he and Karen had and have such great smiles and right then.... We became a family. I felt like family coming to see them. My parents loved them like everyone else has. I was a frequent flyer at the O'halloran practice. I was very involved in all different sports. My favorite from a child was running. So I was in for bad toenails, foot injuries, the last being a bad case of plantar fasciitis. I would see him weekly for shots in my heel. He would laugh because I was the patient that would yelp really loud when he gave me the shot. He always made my visit with him like we were out to lunch, or for coffee. He would ask me what was going on in my life, he listened, he cared and he would remember what I loved and cared about and if I didn't see him for a few years. He would remember what those things were that meant a lot to me. Karen would always come out to visit and if I didn't see her, I would ask him where she was and if I could say hi. Dr O would bring me to his office to show me his kids pics when they were younger and his grandkids pics

He was so proud and it felt good that he brought me into he and Karen's world. At one point in my younger years I was in Tae Kwon Doe and so was his son so we would catch up on that. I was excited when I had my daughter and couldn't wait to bring her to the office to show her off. I can count on a few fingers of Docs that I have had that are this amazing of a human! I'm so sad about this. Breaks my heart! My first thought was Karen. I can't imagine the heartbreak. I thought Dr.O would live forever!

My body failed me a long time ago and he was still hiking and skiing. I'm 25 years younger too! His zest for life. His amazing treatment of his patients. So much more.

I will miss seeing him.

I'm sending love, light and prayers. Hugs and love Karen. 🙏🏻🙏🏻

My deepest condolences to Karen, his daughter, son, grandkids,

family and friends.
Love and sincerely
Aily Bott

Aily Bott - July 08, 2024 at 02:44 AM

“ (continued) would not have taken much longer. In descending, we triggered several small wet slab avys, but we were staying exactly on our snow trail on the narrow firm snow track from the ascent so we were generally safe. Later that afternoon, the two people who had been ahead of us triggered a huge slide on their way down and one was killed. I clipped the news release of their episode and laminated copies for us as “reminder” book-marks. Our final winter climb together was Cristo Couloir on Quandary, after which we spent the night at the O’Halloran condo in Breck, sitting for a long while in the steam room and paying an atrocious amount for hamburgers!

I could go on and on about some of the fantastic climbing experiences we shared but there were other special facets of Bill’s and my long series of adventures that were not related to actual climbs. In early 2003 we entered and competed the 20-mile, 2,800-foot elevation gain, Turquoise Lake snowshoe race near Leadville. In late September that year four of us went to the Grand Canyon and ran the Grand Canyon from the South Rim to the North Rim and back to the South Rim—about 50 miles and involving about 11,000 feet of cumulative elevation gain. Wow, what a shared experience/adventure! Then there was the mid-winter day when we ascended Andrews Glacier and got caught in a horrific snow/wind storm on top—winds so strong that we couldn’t hear one another’s shouts even from three feet. We slowly found our way over, in zero visibility, to the trail from Flattop Mountain down to Bear Lake.

And the bike rides! We rode the Elephant Rock Century ride together several years, biked the 123-mile Triple Bypass ride three years, the Santa Fe Century, the Copper Triangle ride, the Buena Vista to Tennessee Pass and return, etc., etc. And oh my, the long training rides we took together on the flats and in the foothills. So very memorable!

There is so much more the two of us shared through the years that I won’t relate. But Kathy and I did agree one time to get on his sail

boat with Bill. Sailing is not my favorite avocation but nonetheless, Bill asked me, as I suspect he did many others, if I would join him on a boat to sail around the world. That was a very easy "NO" for me!

I am missing Bill and his enthusiasm and humor so very much, but I have a plethora of memories of the absolutely marvelous times we shared that will bolster me as I work through his unexpected death. Kathy joins me in our condolences to Bill's family. Know that he will be in my thoughts, alw

Steve and Kathy Martin - June 03, 2024 at 02:57 PM

SM

“ I learned about Bill’s death just before going to PVH for surgery, and have had arm immobilization since, making it challenging until now to write. Bill was a special person in my life, a great outdoor adventure partner of many highly memorable events, and I do and will miss him greatly. In 1998 I was in western China and Tibet for 7 weeks and developed a bad foot infection half way through the trip and suffered through what was then Tibetan “medical” care each night—unable to return home at the time without a major disruption of the entire group. When I finally reached phone service in Lhasa I called Kathy and asked her to get me an appointment with my PCP the day I flew into Denver. He looked at the foot, photographing it but refusing to touch it, and mumbling that an amputation was probably in the cards—but immediately phoned the Wound Care Center and hooked me up with Bill for the next morning. That first session with Bill was a long one, several hours, and Bill’s initial prognosis was also not pleasant. As we talked, we learned that we shared some passions. He asked if I had ever climbed the Grand Teton. My reply was several times. Had I gone up the Exum Ridge route? Yes, I had led the route twice in the 1960s. Bill asked if I would consider taking him up the route, his most-wanted adventure! I replied “yes” if my future foot condition would allow. He worked on my foot several times a week over the next few weeks and by November I was walking good distances again, sans amputation!

That winter I was having concern about how rapidly I had agreed to taking Bill up the Exum, a significant technical climb. I knew little about his experience/expertise and didn’t have a sense of his conditioning/stamina. In mid-winter, Bill and Karin invited Kathy and me to their home for dinner. Walked in and saw some plaques and trophies for trail running competitions Bill had raced in and my relief on the stamina concern was immediate! The spring and summer of 1999 was loaded with rock climbing practice with Bill on routes at Vedauwoo and Boulder Canyon and Lumpy Ridge. I began to have confidence that the Exum was going to work! We hit the backpack trail and climber’s route to the Grand’s Lower Saddle in mid-August and the following day had a marvelous climb together of the ridge to

the summit, getting down to our high camp shortly before dark. The next day, our gals met us at the upper end of the hiking trail as we descended from high camp to the actual trail far below, and the four of us returned to Jackson Hole. A superb climb for both of us, and the start of many things to follow!

That was the beginning. Bill said that Birk's 16th birthday was in 2000 and asked if I'd get Birk ready for a climb of the CMC route on Mt. Moran for summer of 2000. Yes. We trained and the three of us had an exciting climb featuring three "interesting" episodes and taking 24 hours from our high camp tents back to high camp. Can't ever be forgotten. Birk's first climb of a mountain. In September we went up Kiener's Route on the east face of Long's Peak—quite a climb for the lad's first 14er, and Birk's first experience with crampons and an ice axe!

Over the following years Bill and I made many challenging winter climbs of various 14ers, some involving long sled-pulling snowshoe or ski approaches to high camps, some being winter condition climbs that would be coveted by many others. On one, for Columbia and Harvard, we camped in Elk Horn Basin when the recorded temperature in Buena Vista, below us, was -29 degrees. A lucky, for us, climb and turn-around decision was a March climb of La Plata. We were delayed in getting started due to a vehicle issue, which turned out to probably be life-saving. It was a hot day for March and we were ascending the west side of the mountain, far up on snow. I began to have great concern about wet slab avalanches due to the heat and eventually insisted that we turn back, even though getting to the summit would not have taken muc

Steve Martin - June 03, 2024 at 02:53 PM

AM

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Alfred Scott McLaren - May 13, 2024 at 05:05 PM

AM

“ *Bill was a key member of a great team aboard the nuclear attack submarine, USS Queenfish (SSN 651) during my command from 1969 to 1973. He followed in the footsteps of his father who was one of the commissioning crew of the United States Navy's first nuclear-powered submarine, USS Nautilus (SSN 571). A fine man and great human being, he was to become a very successful and much beloved medical doctor and a good friend during the many years that followed.... He also loved the sea as much as I do.... I know he has joined his father now and all our brother submariners and friends who have already departed on "eternal patrol." God rest your soul Bill! Save me a seat at "Happy Hour," I will be joining you in the not too distant future, "Fred," Alfred Scott McLaren, Captain, USN (Ret.), Ph.D.*

Alfred Scott McLaren - May 13, 2024 at 05:01 PM

EW

“ Oh! Bill O’
Suddenly and totally unexpectedly I just lost a friend , known for over 50 years, who was supposed to live to be 100. Shocked and dazed...
I am on a frozen lake enjoying my life completely oblivious to how thin the ice is. I walk even dance with innocent abandonment.
I’m caught in a dilemma. If I stop to reflect,
will the ice crack?
This pain of loss is weighing on me; should I worry?
Breathe

Erick Weiss - May 10, 2024 at 03:19 PM

MK

“ Very sad news he was a very nice man we missed him so much our condolences to his wife and family God blessed him.

Moe Kamandy - May 09, 2024 at 10:42 PM

SL

“ I always loved working with Dr. O'Halloran at the wound clinic. He always had a story or joke to tell to the staff and his patients. He had a wealth of knowledge and was always eager to share. We are all better for knowing him and his absence will leave a great void, but his legacy will live on. He clearly made a lasting impact on everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Stephanie Long - May 06, 2024 at 10:26 AM



“ Dear Karin, family and friends of Bill,
On behalf of the United States Submarine Veterans, we offer our sincere condolences at Bill’s passing. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. We are always saddened whenever a fellow "Bubblehead" departs on Eternal Patrol. Like his father, he served with honor in the U.S. Submarine Force.
To our "Brother-of-the-Phin" we say, "Sailor, rest your oar. We have the watch. Fair Winds and Following Seas." Thank you for your service to our country.
Karin and family... "may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you." 2 Thessalonians 3:16 (ESV).
Jim Sandman, FTC(SS) Ret,
National Chaplain, USSVI.
www.jimsandman.com

Jim Sandman - May 06, 2024 at 08:54 AM

SG

“ What a loss. Bill had a quick wit, an easy smile, and always a fun story to tell. He made many lives better because of his dedication to patients and family at the Wound Healing Clinic. I loved his adventure stories. He will be missed.

Sheryl Griese - May 04, 2024 at 12:28 PM

KD

“ Cousin Billy I was one of the older cousins. Uncle Bill was in the Navy, they traveled a lot. Coming home for summer visits with the family was fun for me. We as a large family would go on pick nicks in the National Parks. Us kids would play, enjoyed fried chicken, fresh caught fish from the adults, lemon aid, etc.. Yes I will miss my cousin.

Karlyn Derose - May 03, 2024 at 01:48 PM

LF

I've been a friend of Karin's for several years. I'll always remember the first time Karin took me to their lovely home and I met Bill. He welcomed me with open arms of friendship, kindness, and laughter. Over the years I spent many hours being regaled with Bill's adventures and looking at his beautiful photos, all the while enjoying one of Bill's unique cocktails. He was an individual who made a lasting impression on people around the world. He will truly be missed by so many. Thank you Bill.

Lynda Fortier - May 10, 2024 at 07:50 PM

PA

“ I only know Bill through sailing, and it was a great way to know him! Always ready to lend a hand. Equally gracious in receiving assistance. Never too serious. His wonderful soul was expressed in his ever present smile and laugh. I will miss him. 😞 My true condolences for his family. Paul Acker

Paul Acker - May 03, 2024 at 11:11 AM

NS

“ I always enjoyed listening to Dr. O'Halloran and his stories about his adventures. His hiking, skiing, he enjoyed just spending time with his family. He always had a big smile. He will be missed by all those who knew him. So sorry to hear of your loss Karen and family.

Norma J Stallsworth - May 03, 2024 at 09:06 AM

TA

“ *Bill took me sailing once. It was quite the adventure! He was so fun and full of life. He did live life to the fullest. He will be missed. I am so sorry for Karen and his family.* ”



Tanya De Armas - May 02, 2024 at 09:57 PM

JB

“ *I knew Bill through many years of sailing together. Always quick with a joke or a story, he was a highlight of our after-sailing gatherings. Bill was always very kind to me and my family, inviting us to sail with him on bigger boats or visit if we were in the Ft. Collins area. He will certainly be missed in the sailing community.* ”

Jim Bergman

Jim Bergman - May 02, 2024 at 02:54 PM

JB

“ *1 file added to the album Bill O* ”



Jim Bergman - May 02, 2024 at 02:45 PM

LC

“ I very much enjoyed working with Bill for many years. He was a dedicated man who truly cared for his patients. I always enjoyed his stories and his humor, and the tales of his adventures. My condolences to his family.

Leroy Cynkar - May 02, 2024 at 11:59 AM

LC

I met Dr O'Halloran while working for the Poudre Valley Health System he was a very kind soul. I will miss him.
Luis

Luis Cardona - May 05, 2024 at 08:29 PM

RC

“ Tuesdays at PVH Wound Care with Dr. O'Halloran were the best start to the week! He shared many stories, jokes and humor- destined to make everyone smile that day. I am grateful- he is one of the best people I got the opportunity to work along side.
-Robin Conley

Robin Conley - May 02, 2024 at 11:17 AM

JA

“ I worked with Bill at PVH doing wound care. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing. He always had a story. A life well lived. Peace be with you.
Janie Arndt

Janie Arndt - May 01, 2024 at 10:20 PM

JF

“ I share many memories of Great OR days & friendship with Dr. O...I know his family through stories he's told...lived on the edge, as his stories were too adventurous for me, but enjoyed knowing him through them..sailing & racing, Viking ships, snow skating, skiing, ice water fall climbing, Forest runs...the man lived his life with JOY

Jeanne Fitzgerald - May 01, 2024 at 07:28 PM