



William Conrad Tosch

January 19, 1934 - March 12, 2022

William Conrad Tosch, a resident of Fort Collins, Colorado, passed peacefully at home with family by his side, Saturday, March 12, 2022 at the age of 88.

Bill was born January 19, 1934, in Lee's Summit, MO. His family moved many times as his father worked on the Rural Electrification Administration Program, bringing electricity to thousands of families and farms. Bill was amazing at making new friends each time they moved, which served him well his whole life. His work ethic was formed by his parents and his first jobs making egg crate boxes for 3 cents each, working at a gas station, setting pins at the bowling alley, running a July 4th fireworks stand and participating in many sports. He graduated from Madison High School, Madison, South Dakota in 1952; then become the first in his family to graduate from college at the University of South Dakota, where he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. He went on to earn a PhD in Chemistry at Purdue University, graduating in 1962, while married with two children.

Bill and his young family moved to Colorado where he began his rewarding career at Marathon Oil Company Research Center in Littleton, and welcomed one more child to the family. His career in Oil Research and Development spanned nearly three decades. After retiring, he enjoyed being a professor at The Pennsylvania State University, Colorado State University and Front Range Community College. He especially loved teaching chemistry to

students in a way they could enjoy and understand, always finding a way to insert a little humor and practicality.

His father Hugo, a true jack-of-all-trades, passed on this gift to Bill, who was a talented woodworker, comfortable with electrical projects, plumbing, gardening, cooking and the list goes on. What was most special about his talent was his willingness to share his skills, teach others or simply help out a friend. Bill fixed a lot of things... for a lot of people!

Bill was very active his whole life, playing competitive tennis, climbing 34 "Colorado 14ers", backpacking, fishing, skiing and enjoying many trips, including canoeing the Boundary Waters of Minnesota, sailing to Alaska, an Outward Bound adventure in Maine, traveling Europe to visit important WWII locations as well as England, France, Norway and others. Italy rose to the top of his most favorite destinations. He was involved in the Fort Collins community, serving as an active member with The Poudre Golden K Kiwanis Club, as a volunteer driver for the Fort Collins Senior Center and a CSU OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute instructor.

There are so many friends and family who will miss Bill dearly, as his sense of humor would always lighten up a room and his wisdom helped solve many a problem. To meet Bill was to be his friend.

Bill is predeceased by his father Hugo William Tosch, mother Melba Elizabeth Leininger Tosch, step-mother Eunice Marie Flagg Tosch, brother Gene H. Tosch, former spouse Constance L. Hexom Tosch and his daughter Daira L. Tosch Hanschmidt.

Survived by his loving partner of 14 years Eloise Loy Zimmerman, sister Karen K. Tosch Campbell (Bruce), son David W. Tosch (Susan), daughter Darci M. Tosch O'Connell (Robert), grandchildren Ross (Rachel), Kyle

(Kathryn), William, Matthew, Kristin, Finnian and great grandchildren Raiden and Roland.

A Celebration of Bill's Life will be held Monday, June 6, 2022, 2:00PM at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 7755 Greenstone Trail, Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Memorial contributions in Bill's memory can be made to Pathways Hospice, 305 Carpenter Rd., Ft. Collins, CO, 80525, or online at pathways-care.org.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 6. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (MT)

Redeemer Lutheran Church
7755 Greenstone Trail
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Tribute Wall



“ [Memorial Trees](https://www.bohlenderfuneralchapel.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of William Conrad Tosch.

June 06, 2022 at 11:32 AM



“ [Memorial Trees](https://www.bohlenderfuneralchapel.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of William Conrad Tosch.

June 05, 2022 at 07:31 PM

CW

“ I had just graduated from college and was facing the prospect of a few years at a dangerous job in a chemical plant to pay off unexpected medical bills and some of my student loans before going to graduate school, when I applied to work as a research physical chemist at Bill's company. He interviewed and immediately hired me at a much higher than expected salary for a much safer and more interesting job.

He was the ideal, caring boss, always treating me as an equal. He listened to every word I said as we had many one-on-one intellectual discussions about the science, the experiments, why we got the results we did, and modifications that we could implement to improve the results based on our hypotheses and theories. He always invited me to attend meetings that were usually reserved for just his level and above. His caring, continuous support was a great confidence builder that has helped me enormously throughout my life. And...with his intellect, his caring, his support we co-authored many patents.

If I had known then what I know now—that I was working for an Angel in disguise and that most other supervisors were not up to his level, I would never have left.

An endless number of loving thanks to Bill. He is deeply missed.

May he rest in peace,

Chuck Wenger

CHARLES WENGER - May 18, 2022 at 02:33 PM

LM

“ Larry H. Miller purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of William Conrad Tosch.



Larry H. Miller - March 30, 2022 at 08:40 PM

JG

“ John, Rachael & James Griswold purchased the [Memorial Trees](https://www.bohlenderfuneralchapel.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) for the family of William Conrad Tosch.

John, Rachael & James Griswold - March 22, 2022 at 11:06 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William Conrad Tosch.



March 22, 2022 at 10:41 AM



“ [Memorial Trees](https://www.bohlenderfuneralchapel.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of William Conrad Tosch.

March 18, 2022 at 07:48 PM

DO

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Darci O'Connell - March 18, 2022 at 12:40 PM

SN

“ It is with gravitas, that we bid goodbye to a remarkable human being. Death came as a friend in his battle with cancer that (he) for months handled with aplomb. I’ve learned so much and he always taught with grace and humor things so techie or chemically. He could bring them to my level and who couldn’t love a guy that wore a tee shirt with the periodic table printed on it. To this day, I never shake a salt shaker without thinking of NaCl (sodium chloride). Or the joke we’ve heard: “Say, Bill can one drink H₂SO₄?” “Why, yes you can, as a matter of fact, but only once!”

Our drives together with the Senior Center vans and the collection of disparate paying individuals whom we’d gather and tote and dine and visit was a play ground to him and it was wonderful listening to his interchange of conversation.

He was curious about all and his eyebrow would rise when too many conversations would erupt for he felt it his job, as parliamentarian to have a cadence within a cacophony of opinion around the table.

His smile, his twinkle, will forever live within the latent images of all of us who had the pleasure to be with him.

Within all of us - we weep - at this loss.

Fare thee well, Billy.



steve nelson - March 17, 2022 at 07:43 PM