



Dan W. Habel

July 17, 1934 - July 21, 2019

Dr. Dan William Habel passed away at home on July 21, 2019 a picture-perfect, sunny summer day, just four days after his 85th birthday.

Dan was born on July 17, 1934 in Anderson, Indiana, one-half hour after his twin sister, Judy, to the late Mary Edith and Otto William Habel. He attended Saginaw Public Schools. Following his graduation from Arthur Hill High School in 1952, he attended the University of Michigan, graduating from Michigan's Medical School in 1959. He stayed in Ann Arbor for six years where he completed his training and residency in Otolaryngology.

Dan joined the Air Force Medical Corps in Biloxi, Mississippi in 1966. After serving as captain for two years, he moved to Spokane, Washington. He joined the Spokane Ear Nose & Throat Clinic where he practiced for 30 years. In addition to his private practice, Dan had clinical associate professorships at Eastern Washington University and the University of Washington Medical School. He was also an instructor at the National Academy of Otolaryngology. He was a member of the Spokane Downtown Rotary Club.

He and his Black Labradors loved hunting and fishing at the Calispell Duck Club with a close group of friends. His other hobbies included photography, geology, sailing, aviation, and steam engines. He was a proud member of the Buckley (Michigan) Steam and Old Engine Club. For 25 years, he was a gentleman farmer on Hangman Valley Road in Spokane. He was the worst-dressed physician and the best-dressed farmer, always sporting his signature white tube socks with penny loafers.

After Dan's retirement, he reconnected with and married his kindergarten classmate and friend, Carolyn Gilbert (Dunscombe). They enjoyed 24 happy and adventurous years together, splitting their time between Spokane and Traverse City. They loved to travel in their motor home and were fortunate to see many beautiful places in 49 states in the USA. They also toured New Zealand in a rented motor home.

Dan was fearless, had an inquisitive mind, a sharp wit, an infectious smile, and a kind heart. He was very unassuming and had no idea the impact he had on others. He was always up for an adventure, and several of these adventures ended up in unexpected and humorous ways. He was the valedictorian story teller; his adventures provided great fodder for his many anecdotes. He was also a consummate teacher, passing along his wealth of knowledge to his children, grandchildren (to whom he was "Grampie"), and great grandchildren.

Dan was pre-deceased by his parents and his twin sister, Judy.

Dan will be greatly missed by many, especially his loving family. He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Carolyn; his sister, Mary Rebecca Ferris; his daughter Rebecca Mattix, DVM, granddaughter Katie Mattix; his son, Dan Michael (Susan), and grandchildren Caroline and William Habel. He is also survived by Carolyn's children, Ian (Rebecca) Dunscombe, Jr., Amy Dunscombe, and Donald (Brenda) Dunscombe; grandchildren, Ian Dunscombe III, Andrew (Laura) Dunscombe, Casey McCotter, and Ashley (Otto) Snell; eight great grandchildren; and sisters-in-law, Mary Lu, Sue Ellen, and Mary Gilbert, the mother of his children, Kathryn Jo Crosset, and nieces and nephews.

A private celebration of Dan's life is being planned by his family for a later date. Those wishing to make a contribution in Dan's memory, please consider Munson Dialysis Center, 4062 Royal Dr., Traverse City, MI, 49684, Munson Hospice, 1500 Medical Campus Dr., Traverse City, MI, 49684 or Fresenius Kidney Care, 610 S Sherman St Ste 101, Spokane, WA 99202. The family would also express their thanks for the wonderful care Dan received from Munson Hospice and Comfort Keepers.

According to Dan, "The location of heaven is sort of vague, but for me, my life on earth was heaven."

Please feel free to share your thoughts and memories with Dan's family at his tribute page at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

The family is being cared for by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Comments



“ I had the privilege of working with Dan at Spokane ENT from 1986 until his retirement. I adored the man and have many cherished memories of that time. He was a great teacher and wonderful doctor but he did have his idiosyncrasies as anyone who knew him well will attest to. He once ate a pizza I had brought for my lunch that was in the staff fridge even though the box had my name on it. He didn't do it maliciously - he was hungry! When he heard it was my pizza, though, he had one delivered to replace it (and I'm pretty sure ate part of that one, too!) Dan didn't suffer fools quietly - he wasn't shy to tell someone to go "piss up a rope" if they didn't want to listen to his advice, even if it was a patient. Dan, you were a one of a kind treasure, and I was lucky to know you.
Lin Maplethorpe Grenz

Linda D Grenz - August 01, 2019 at 10:31 PM



“ I have several happy memories of visits with Dan and Carolyn. When I visit my daughter in the Traverse City area, I had time while she was working to visit them. Max and I even were present at their wedding. We once visited them in Spokane many years ago and they took us to Coeur D'Alene where we saw his sailboat and had ice cream. Before that Nancy had stopped there on a trip to see friends somewhat nearby. Dan is my first cousin. I will miss him.

Phyllis Ulrich - July 25, 2019 at 08:20 PM



“ Just a quick note. Dan and I were classmates in med school but never really connected. We were not that far apart in the alphabet H and K but must have run in different circles. I would loved to have shared memories when he was alive. We were both three year undergrads, but I became a surgeon in Cadillac and he in Washington. I also find my Heaven in the outdoors and especially in the waters and the land in Northern Michigan. My second marriage is in its fortieth year. To all the family, enjoy your memories. They are the cornerstones of life. Kenneth Kleyn MD
UMED '59

Kenneth Kleyn MD - July 25, 2019 at 09:05 AM



“ What a great neighbor Dan was we would watch him work in is yard and driving is tractor every time he could he liked working in is yard in his white socks no shoes he will be missed Don & Karen

Don Hendges - July 23, 2019 at 09:30 PM



“ What a kind and gentle man. One of my most favorite customers. We are all better persons after meeting Dan. My thoughts and prayers are with Carolyn and family.

Dick Guzowski

Dick Guzowski - July 24, 2019 at 10:11 AM



“ A wonderful inspiration to us all.
A very inquiring mind that was always looking beyond the next matter.

A wonderful sense of humor and fun to be with.

He was a gift to us all.

godspeed,

Tom and Laurie Connolly.

Tom Connolly - July 26, 2019 at 11:52 AM



“ Dan was always a pleasure to spend time with, I have many good memories of the time when we were together. He was a special person who I am glad I got to know. His positive attitude towards life was an inspiration to us all.

Please accept my sympathy for your loss. Losing Kay last year and Dan this year makes us all realize the shortness of our life here.

Joe Meredith

Joe Meredith - July 30, 2019 at 01:52 PM



“ A wish for peace especially for Becky and all those who knew and loved this very special man.

Bruce Hiscock

Bruce Hiscock - August 01, 2019 at 10:03 AM