



Edward Whitcomb Stilwill MD

November 13, 1950 - November 15, 2015

“Best of all he loved the fall The leaves yellow on the cottonwoods Leaves floating on the trout streams And above the hills The high blue windless skies Now he will be a part of them forever” EH

Edward Whitcomb Stilwill

November 13, 1950-November 15, 2015

We wish to celebrate the extraordinary life of Edward Stilwill who recently passed on to the "Happy Hunting Ground" after a prolonged struggle with metastatic prostate cancer, throughout which he was sustained by his positive life view. He is survived by his loving wife, Sally Pochter Stilwill and their two children Katherine Greer (Carter) McDonnell and Sarah Elizabeth Stilwill (John) Gannon and his grandson, William Gannon who loved his Opa.

Edward was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan and moved with his parents to Newtonville, Massachusetts and New Haven Connecticut as his father completed his pediatric orthopedic residency. Edward graduated from East Lansing High School in 1968, Albion College in 1972, and Northwestern University Medical School in 1976. Edward won the Bernard Baruch medal for National Medical School writing contest in Electron Microscope Neuromuscular research of Paraplegic Upper and Lower Motor Neuron disease.

Edward met Sally in Chicago, married in 1976 and moved back to Ann Arbor for a radiology residency and two year neuroradiology fellowship at the University of Michigan Hospital. He rapidly rose to the rank of Associate Professor of Neuroradiology at the University of Michigan.

In 1981, Edward moved his family “up north” to enjoy a neuroradiology practice in Traverse City with Munson Medical Center for 32 years. He felt lucky to be a physician which he called a most "honorable profession and work worth doing."

Edward was an Eagle Scout with 3 Eagle Palms - he liked to say that's why he liked

Duckhorn Merlot Three Palms wine. He enjoyed everything out of doors such as hiking, skiing, hunting, bicycling (Ice Man), cross country skiing and participated in the North American Vasa for many years- winning a 2nd place team finish in 1984 and participating in the American Birkebeiner for several years.

Edward enjoyed flyfishing with his father and his family at his cabin on the Manistee River, bird hunting and skeet shooting with his best friend Pat G., years of Western hunting adventures with JR, and hiking with his favorite hiking couples in TC and Montana. Edward authored a book of his hunting exploits and misadventures in "The Making of a Sportsman". Upon retirement his compass needle pointed west and southwest to refocus life in the mountains of Big Sky Montana, where his spirit soared amongst the stars and open space, particularly in the fall when the ethereal bull elk bugles.

Edward raised his coffee cup every morning and wine glass every evening to the Spanish Peaks Mountains and said, "Thank you for another day, "
He felt so lucky and incredibly grateful for his full and happy life. He will be remembered always for his incredible gifts as a mentor to his family and friends and for sharing his contagious passion for all outdoor pursuits. including the art of biking, skiing, hunting, fishing, and hiking.

He was proudest of his family, their accomplishments academically and personally, and loved gathering often with them in Montana to share all of his wisdom on life in the West.

A celebration of Edward's life will take place Sunday, May 29, 2016 from 11 AM until 1 PM at the Dennon Museum. Edward's family would like to thank the many wonderful caregivers at the Huntsman Cancer Institute in Salt Lake City, Utah and at Munson Medical Center, at the infusion clinic, Dr. Kohler and Dr. Heimberger.

In lieu of flowers donations may be directed to The TART Trails or the Traverse Health Clinic in Traverse City, Michigan- The Big Sky Medical Center in Big Sky Montana through the Bozeman Health Foundation 931 Highland Blvd. Bozeman Montana 59715 or the Yellowstone Association
PO box 117, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190,

Events

MAY **Memorial Gathering** 11:00AM - 01:00PM
29

The Dennon Museum

1701 East Front Street, Traverse City, MI, US, 49686

Comments



“ Sally and Family: So sorry to hear about Stils. Our sharing of a 1968 Albion freshman dorm room does not seem that long ago or far away. I had the pleasure of rooming with Ed for a couple of years and as a Frat brother for four. There are so many things that I admired about Ed the list here would be too long. But his dedication to his profession showed even at that age. I have told many friends over the years that of anybody I have known, Ed had a purpose and he knew what that purpose was in 1968...to be a radiologist in Traverse City MI.

Although it has been many, many years since we spoke, I have thought about Ed many times and have been pleased that he led the life that he truly wanted to live. My deepest heartfelt thoughts and prayers to you, your daughters and extended family.

Dave Anderson

Dave Anderson - December 08, 2015 at 04:31 PM



“ Dear Sally and family: I first met Ed with I started working as a nurse practitioner with Dr Zimmerman back in the mid-80's. Eric introduced me to Ed and wanted Ed to spend time with me teaching me how to read CT scans and MRI's (which were new then). Ed was so gracious and patient and kind to spend his valuable time showing me the ropes. Through my career, Ed was always my "go to guy" when I was stuck with being unsure of what to order for my patients. He was a gem of a man and always had a moment to say "hi -- how are you". even in passing on the Vasa trail! On Ed's last day, we had a final chat about a patient of mine that Ed diagnosed with metastatic melanoma; Ed was reading the MRI. Little did I know that it was Ed's last day -- he acted like it was just another day -- and little did I know of his terrible diagnosis/prognosis. I chatted with Ed last year at a National Writer's event, and again, it was the same old Ed, paler and frailer, but just the same. My deepest sympathies go out to you and your family during this sad time. Ed meant a lot to many -- and even those of use who weren't close friends, it is heartbreaking.

Annelle Kaspor

Annelle Kaspor - November 29, 2015 at 06:47 PM



“ Dear Sally, Sarah, and Kate, Even though we have not had the pleasure of seeing Ed for several, years, he has been in our heart and thoughts. We particularly admired him for his medical expertise, caring, and happy and positive attitude. Sally, I saw you in the TC parking deck a few years ago and I have not forgotten your advise - enjoy each day. Hugs, Ann and Mark Smith

ann smith - November 25, 2015 at 11:19 AM



“ Dear Sally, I am so sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. In sympathy and caring. Shirley Nelson

Shirley Nelson - November 24, 2015 at 05:01 PM



“ What a wonderful Doctor, husband, father, and friend! Ed will be greatly missed in our Michigan community. I send your family much love,
Molly Phinny

Molly Phinny - November 24, 2015 at 11:23 AM



“ I so vividly remember meeting Dr. Stillwill nearly every morning in the cafe at Munson. What a GREAT man. He was always eager to share a morning smile, chat or ask how you were. He was a man of great respect and always treated you with the greatest respect. I was so excited to see him a few months back in the cafe, just as it was, like no time had passed. What an amazing man! I'm so incredibly sorry for your loss. May you find comfort in the days, weeks and years ahead knowing that he will be at your side. You will smile at the bird, the song and the season that bears his memory. God Bless you all -- my (our) greatest sympathies! Andrea and Ben Ludka

Andrea Ludka - November 23, 2015 at 09:43 PM



“ Dear Sally, Sarah and Kate,
We want you all to know that we are sending you special thoughts during this sad time. We have so many wonderful memories - May Ed's zest for life, his ready smile and the love he gave you, bring comfort during this time of loss.
Hogg Hugs

Cindy and Ed - November 23, 2015 at 05:08 PM



“ Sally, So very sorry for your loss. Linda told me of Ed's passing last Thursday. My heartfelt thoughts go out to you and your family.

Wayne Fetman - November 23, 2015 at 09:00 AM



“ I always enjoyed working with Dr. Stilwell when I worked Fridays at MMC. He had a great sense of humor and I loved talking with him about hunting and about my cabin in Canada. I know he will be fly fishing the greatest river and seeing such beauty.
Rest in peace my friend.

Mary K. Slick - November 22, 2015 at 07:47 PM



“ Sorry to hear of his passing. I have always enjoyed our sporting talks and similar sense of humor. He will be missed.

Peter J. Pearson - November 22, 2015 at 04:17 PM



“ I remember with affection Ed's gait, his stance, a glass on wine in his hand which was adorned by a ring made of antler or bone, his soft chuckle ... but especially the way his wisdom and love for your family so closely resembled my own dad's wisdom and love for our family. We are a very lucky bunch to have these magnificent and wise men in our lives. I will forever be grateful for that. My love is with each of you.
What beautiful words, what a glorious life he lived!

Abby Walton Porter - November 22, 2015 at 03:41 PM



“ So sorry to hear of the loss of our good friend Ed. It was such an honor to work with such a talented doctor and pleasant human being. He will be missed greatly.



Kathleen Trudeau-Gee - November 22, 2015 at 03:13 PM



“ Sally-So very sorry for your loss. My heart goes out to you and your family. Sent with love, Peachy Rentenbach

Peachy Rentenbach - November 22, 2015 at 12:08 PM



“ Ed was a terrific physician and a fine man. He was always a pleasure to be around. It was a privilege to have known and worked with Ed.
Ralph Cerny

Ralph Cerny - November 22, 2015 at 05:52 AM