



Dr. William Allen Davidson

September 30, 1928 - April 7, 2015

William Allen Davidson, M.D.

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Bill Davidson was an insightful man who endeared himself to others with his quiet strength and compassion. He was born in Upland, California and moved to Santa Barbara two years later when his father, Paul W. Davidson, was hired as a social studies teacher at Santa Barbara High School.

Bill graduated from Santa Barbara High in 1946 and studied at the University of California, Berkeley where in 1950 he earned a B.A. in Zoology. He continued education at Claremont Graduate School, completing a general secondary teaching credential in 1951 before earning a master's degree in Limnology at San Jose State University.

He joined the U.S. Army from 1952-54 and was stationed at Letterman Army Hospital in San Francisco. During this time Bill and his lifelong love Carol Hubbs were married in Palo Alto on June 7, 1953. Their marriage spanned nearly 62 years.

Following military service Bill entered medical school at Stanford University, achieving his M.D. degree there in 1958 before moving to Los Angeles for internship and residency at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and West Los Angeles VA Hospital.

In 1962, Bill achieved his longed-for goal of becoming a medical doctor. When asked why he had undertaken this difficult goal, he answered "I wanted to help people heal." Bill moved his young family to Santa Barbara and began private practice in internal medicine and gastroenterology. He loved his work, and never tired of its many demands on his time and energy.

From 1963 to 1973 Dr. Davidson served as Chief of Medicine at local hospitals including Santa Barbara County Hospital, Saint Francis Hospital, and Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital. He was proud to have served on the team which started the first gastroenterology lab at Cottage Hospital.

In 1985 Bill was invited to transition from private practice to become the first Director of Medical Affairs at Cottage Hospital, where he served until his retirement in 1995. Bill was passionate about not only his healing purpose but also teaching young medical residents. To that end, he played an instrumental role with other members of a talented team to

improve a medical residency program and hospital administration practices at Cottage Hospital.

Dr. Davidson was a fellow of both the American College of Physicians and the American College of Gastroenterology. Additionally, he was a member of the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and the American Academy of Medical Directors, among other professional organizations.

Bill enjoyed a lifelong love of the outdoors. His family has many fond recollections of the backpacking, sailing, and skiing trips that he organized. For years he tended an avocado ranch in the Santa Barbara foothills where he loved horseback riding, working with irrigation equipment, and the like. He also journeyed across the Santa Ynez countryside on many occasions with the Rancheros Visitadores trail riding club.

Survivors include his wife Carol of Santa Barbara and sister Virginia Cellars of Denver, CO; daughter Wendy Davidson of Porter Ranch, CA, son Grant Davidson (Shihua Wang) of Burlingame, CA, and son Todd Davidson (Paulette Watkins) of Bloomington, IN. His five grandchildren, Lauren and Gina Kosty, Alec, Erin, and Janette, carry treasured memories of many enjoyable and enlightening visits to see 'Nana and Grandpa' in Santa Barbara.

Bill was predeceased by his parents Paul and Betty, and sister Junemarie Reynolds.

Memorial services will be held at the First United Methodist Church, 305 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, on Sunday, May 3 at 2 pm. An award for outstanding residents in internal medicine has been established as a fitting memorial. In lieu of flowers, donations to this fund may be sent to the "Dr. William Davidson Memorial Award for Medical Excellence" at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, 400 West Pueblo St., Santa Barbara, 93105.

The family extends its heartfelt gratitude to Drs. William Koonce, William Rajala, and all of Bill's nurses and caregivers for their moral and medical support.

Comments



“ Like all of us, my father had multiple facets of his personality. He is fondly remembered as caring, humble, honest, insightful. The courage he demonstrated during his illness in the last five years of his life was exemplary. But I believe the essence of Dad’s character is best illustrated by his passion for healing and teaching.

Dad chose to pursue a medical degree in order to help people heal. He was happiest at work when tackling the most challenging patient cases, a trait that served him well not only in private practice but as a medical consultant later in his career. His thoughtful, diligent approach to the diagnosis of patient health issues was valued by patients and peers alike.

Dad believed in people, especially that everyone has potential to do great things if suitably empowered. This facet of his personality emerged in his passion for teaching. He generally avoided giving specific instructions or prescribing a formula for success. Instead, he taught by example or by asking thought-provoking questions. At many junctures in my career and personal life, Dad initiated conversations to ensure that I considered all the big-picture questions.

This quote from Henry Van Dyke expresses what I see as the essence of my father’s character:

“To desire and strive to be of some service to the world, to aim at doing something which shall really increase the happiness and welfare and virtue of mankind - this is a choice which is possible for all of us; and surely it is a good haven to sail for.”

Dad, you no longer sail amongst us, but your gracious soul endures. You left indelible marks on the hearts and minds of family, friends, and colleagues. I thank you for your spirit that will inspire and empower us to make a difference in the world.

Grant A. Davidson - May 14, 2015 at 09:49 AM



“ I was in Mrs. Green's screen nursery class at the Presbyterian church. Billy Davidson was seated across from me, Ian Young, by his mother. He didn't want to sit there. He wanted to sit next to the Japanese boy, ME. I had a haircut typical of all Japanese boys back then.

Years later, we were to open "the gates" for the adult choir. We were quite a sensation in our choir robes, one boy with blonde hair and the other with black.

When we were in LA Cumberland Junior High, we joined the others - Tully, Stauffer, Funai, Chapman, Adams, Keener, Davidson and Young. We continued through SBHS. We all went to college, married and had families. Now, in our 80s, we are getting called to a special home by God. We have been successful on earth and will meet next time in heaven. It will be a fond reunion.

P.S. Carol, there will be times of loneliness and your church can be your redeemer.

Ian Young

r weiser - May 11, 2015 at 11:56 AM



“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Beth Utz - April 30, 2015 at 06:14 PM



“ My Uncle Bill and his family are at the heart of so many of my childhood memories. I remember how he was always there enjoying whatever activities the family was involved in. For the family members..... I remember visiting you all at the house on San Marcos, taking hikes to the reservoir, horseback riding, and a day with all the cousins playing with punching bags. Fun times dancing at family weddings, family reunions and the Golden Anniversary of the Hubbs grandparents. These photos were taken about 12 years ago when I was visiting California with my daughters I am pleased that the girls still remember this day filled with family, food and splashes. My love to you all, I wish I could be with you this weekend to honor Bill's memory.

Love Beth Utz

Beth Utz - April 30, 2015 at 06:33 PM



“ Bill set the standard for class, kindness, and personal decorum in the practice of medicine--he was the one to emulate as I started my medical practice in the 1970's. The first time I met Bill, making rounds on the second floor of St. Francis Medical Center, he was wearing a 3-piece suit, a touch of formality that underscored the standard he set for himself in his practice of medicine. His quiet thoughtful considerations, whether in the examining room with a suffering patient or while horseback riding on the trail with Carol, were always valuable to all of us. On the day of his Memorial Service, May 3, his camp of fellow Rancheros will be on the trails he brightened in the Santa Ynez mountains--the men of the Gringo Camp will toast him in tribute to his many qualities and his kindness, and on May 4, at our Ranchero Visitadores memorial ceremony, we will ring the bell for him in memoriam as he joins his fellow riders who have passed before on the remembrance wall at Janeway. Keiko and I will miss Bill and we extend our deepest sympathy to Carol and the rest of his family.

Roger C. Dunham - April 26, 2015 at 12:39 PM



“ How meaningful.... thank you, Wendy Davidson

Wendy - April 26, 2015 at 11:27 PM



“ Roger & Keiko- what a beautiful commentary about Bill. Thank you both much- Carol & Family

Carol Davidson - May 12, 2015 at 09:10 PM



“ I had the privilege of helping to care for Dr. Davidson during his last days. He was a wonderful man and I will remember him fondly. My thoughts and prayers are with Mrs. Davidson and his family.
Irma Camp, caregiver.

Irma Camp - April 23, 2015 at 09:27 AM



“ This means so much... I'll pass the message on. He appreciated you, too.

Wendy - April 26, 2015 at 11:29 PM



“ A wonderful human being, a "Mensch" I will miss him. Stan Ostern, M.D.

Edith Ostern - April 19, 2015 at 08:37 AM



“ I had opportunity to work with Dr. Davidson for many years at SBCH-- he was humble, compassionate and caring of patients and staff. He always welcomed other's ideas and I have many fond memories of our conversations
Sincere condolences to Mrs. Davidson and family. Thanks for sharing him with us.
Carol Henderson Nelson RN

carol henderson nelson - April 18, 2015 at 01:08 PM



“ Thank you Carol. Its so meaningful to hear from you.
From Wendy Davidson, daughter.

Wendy - April 18, 2015 at 02:57 PM



“ My condolences to you and your family, Wendy. I just heard. I was telling a friend recently about the peacocks at your house when we were kids.

Louise Manzo Mckaig - April 19, 2015 at 01:04 PM



“ My husband John is a first cousin to Carol. We had never met and flew to Santa Barbara, Ca. To meet them for the first time. We had the best time with them both. Bill was so kind and caring. We treasure the memory .
Our thoughts are with Carol and the family.
Mary Beth Reese Manhattan, Ks.

mary reese - April 17, 2015 at 04:36 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Gina - April 16, 2015 at 03:51 PM