



## William D. McCann, MD

June 7, 2021

William “Bill” Dean McCann, 86, of Lititz, Lancaster County, PA died on June 7, 2021. Husband, father, grandfather, friend, physician, golfer, fisherman and storyteller – he will be greatly missed.

Bill was born on March 17, 1935 in Glen Rock, PA to Arabelle Reichard McCann and George Preston McCann. His family moved to Hershey, PA when he was five months old. In later years, he would say he had a charmed childhood. He spent many summers living with his grandparents and helping with chores like egg gathering and hauling water for chickens.

Later in childhood he began working (as a caddy) at a Hershey golf course, igniting his lifelong enthusiasm for golf. He also nurtured a passion for fishing via fishing holes on his grandparents’ farm, and on ‘party boats’ pursuing sea bass, flounder, sea trout and blow fish at the Jersey Shore and Chesapeake Bay with his father. Through his childhood wafted the exhilarating aroma of chocolate from the Hershey Chocolate Factory.

Bill graduated from Hershey High School in 1953 and Pennsylvania State University in 1957 where he was a member of the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity. He graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 1961, having completed an externship in Albuquerque, NM while in medical school. He interned at Harrisburg Polyclinic Hospital in Harrisburg, PA from 1961-1962, and served as a General Medical Officer in the United States Air Force in Syracuse, NY from 1962-1965. Following a family practice residency at Lancaster General Hospital in Lancaster, PA from 1965-1966, Bill joined the family medicine practice of Dr. Floyd Landis in Leola, PA from 1966-1968. Shortly thereafter he pursued an internal medicine residency followed by a fellowship in cardiology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN from 1968-1972, and then returned to private practice as a cardiologist in Lancaster County with Dr. Richard Mann. This practice grew and flourished to become The Heart Group. Concurrently, he served as Chairman of the Department of Medicine at Lancaster General Hospital from 1978-1980. He was a mentor to many and an inspiration to all. He retired from the practice in 1987 and worked in occupational medicine at Lancaster

General Hospital until his final retirement in 2000. Bill was very invested in medicine and the community and continued to contribute beyond 2000 in many ways such as through the Edward Hand Medical Heritage Foundation (now the Lancaster Medical Heritage Museum) where he served on the board as vice-president and as treasurer and participated in the oral history program in 2008 (Development of Cardiology at LGH) and annual lecture series in 2016 (50 Years of Lancaster Cardiology 1965-2015). He was President of the Lancaster City & County Medical Society in 1986. He served on the board of Hospice & Community Care from 1995-2000, and as the Board Chair in 1998 and 1999. He was a member of the PA Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

Sports were an important part of Bill's life. From an early age he worked at and played on the Hershey golf course. He played on multiple courses with his father. As an adult, he played on courses around the world including the famed St. Andrews Old Course in Scotland and his all-time favorite, Royal County Down in Northern Ireland. He was a member and former board president of the Lancaster Country Club and ParsOrMore, a Lancaster area golfing group that regularly plays on area golf courses. While in Minnesota, he and his family learned to ski. He was a consummate Penn State sports booster, and a fan of professional golf and tennis.

Bill also appreciated the arts, encouraging his children to learn to play musical instruments and supporting local artists and crafters over the years. He greatly valued education and worked to ensure his children and grandchildren would have access to education opportunities.

Bill loved having family gatherings, especially around the holidays and in the summer picking up bushels of crabs seasoned in Old Bay for cracking on newspaper-covered picnic tables. Everything came full circle for him when he purchased an 80-acre farm in Marticville: growing corn in a co-op arrangement with a neighboring farmer, raising sheep, fishing in the farm's pond, putting on golf greens he developed and maintained and hosting gathering after gathering of family and friends. One year he and his wife, Bev, hosted an Olympics-themed fundraiser for Hospice & Community Care featuring farm versions of sporting events.

Bill was preceded in death by his wife of 31 years, Beverly McCann, and his sister Alyce Gallagher. He is survived by his sister Shirley Hersh, Elizabethtown, PA; his former wife Elva Winter, Elizabethtown, PA; children Karen Chiodo (Michael), Strasburg, PA; Elizabeth "Betsy" McCann, Yakima, WA; George McCann (Natalie Hanson), Half Moon Bay, CA; Margaret "Peggy" McCann (Vincent Strout), Westfield, NJ; and Susan "Sue" McCann (Ron Nese), Stonington, CT; grandchildren Emily Frenzel (Zach), Sarah Chiodo, Michael

Chiodo (Matthew Bower), Georgia Gempler, Ava Gempler, Fiona Strout, Gillian Strout, Leela McCann, Adalie McCann and Luna McCann; and special friend Sally Rohrer, Lititz, PA.

Bill's death followed a fortunate interval of visits from family and friends made possible as the COVID-19 pandemic finally loosened its grip. The pandemic made it difficult to be connected in person in the 15 months prior to Bill's passing, but in this instance love found a way. As news of Bill's death rippled from friend to friend and colleague to colleague, treasured friend Bob Fryer poignantly noted, "Hearts are breaking from here (PA) to Florida." From the hospital room to the putting green and everywhere in-between, the passing of this man who always led with kindness, who took time with people and who inspired the same in others was felt deeply. Bill's family is planning a Celebration of Life and looks forward to hearing stories of Bill who always had a story to share of a friendship, an exchange or a moment in the day.

Bill's final days were eased through the compassion and gentleness of hospice care, the intention and practice of which he long supported. In memory of Bill, please make a contribution to Hospice & Community Care so that Bill can continue to "make his rounds" as he did for decades in the hospital – person by person, family by family – engaging, comforting and lifting hearts, or the Lancaster Medical Heritage Museum, or an organization or charity of your choice.

The Celebration of Life planned for September 26, 2021 has been postponed until the spring of 2022.

# Events

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**SEP** **Visitation** 01:00PM - 02:00PM

**26**

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Lancaster Country Club

1466 New Holland Avenue, Lancaster, PA, US, 17602

**SEP** **Celebration of Life** 02:00PM

**26**

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Lancaster Country Club

1466 New Holland Avenue, Lancaster, PA, US, 17602

# Comments

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“ Dear McMann Family,

My name is Barbara Landis Chase, and I am the daughter of Floyd Landis, with whom Dr. McCann practiced in the 60's. My father thought the world of him and was so pleased when he went on to do a residency, something my father would have done but for the intervention of WW2. I think Daddy may even have seen Dr. McCann as a physician in his later years, when he was suffering from heart issues. I send my condolences to the whole family; you must be heart broken but also so proud of him for a life so well lived.

Barbara

**Barbara Chase** - July 07 at 01:30 PM

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“ Bill was one of the finest individuals I have ever been fortunate enough to call a friend!

We need many more "Bills" in this world!

**Charlie Kurtz** - July 01 at 12:27 PM

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“ Dr. McCann was a wonderful mentor, teacher and human being. His patients adored him and he was tough with residents and interns but fair and expected excellence. His experience as a Family Physician made him an outstanding physician in the emerging specialty of cardiology. As Dick Mann told me " I wear the black hat, Gault wears the grey hat and Bil wear the WHITE hat!" His gentle but firm manner was a balm to his patients and his students. I was fortunate to able to say Good Bye several days before he died but enjoyed his smile when he related his best golf score at 72. Sparky verified that!! Thank you Bill - we have missed you and that will continue.

William D.L. Hunt MD LGH Resident 75-79

**William D. L Hunt MD** - June 30 at 08:09 PM

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“ He was a mentor but more than that. He was a good man but more than that. He was for me and my colleagues what we all aspired to be. He will be missed but not forgotten. May he rest in peace.

John H Surry, MD  
LGH Resident Class 1977

John H Surry - June 30 at 12:29 AM

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“ Bill was a kind, gentle man whose mere presence brought comfort to patients, friends and his dear family. He was a pillar of our medical community always striving to be the best doctor and care giver he could be. Thank you for the love you gave, Bill. Peter and Candy DeGreen.

Peter and Charlotte DeGreen - June 27 at 10:40 AM

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“ Dr. McCann was one of the most kind, compassionate, honest, reliable and thoughtful people I have ever known. Bill was president of Lancaster Country Club when I was their club professional. Unlike many leaders, Dr. McCann never dictated his desires to staff or fellow members. Never forceful or dogmatic, Bill led and inspired peacefully and with great humility.

Bill's many friends will forever cherish the fun times we shared... the fond memories of golf, fishing, traveling, and socializing with Bill, Bev and the LCC gang will always bring smiles to our faces.

Our most sincere condolences to the McCann family.

Love,

Wilson, Michele, Stephan and Alexi Zehner  
Tequesta, Florida

Wilson Zehner - June 26 at 01:22 PM

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“ I have too many memories to recount here/ Hopefully I will deliver an eulogy at the Celebration of Life ceremony/ Marv Daley

marvin c daley - June 25 at 06:14 PM

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“ I am not sure if my tribute to Bill was lost . Not only was he a highly respected family physicians in his early years of practice in Leola, but went on to train at the Mayo Clinic and returned to Lancaster to serve his patients and his community as a cardiologist. i considered him a dear friend and colleague, and owe him a debt of gratitude for all that he did for the family practice residency program at the Lancaster General. Our residents considered him a mentor and outstanding teacher. He also helped care for my patients. He was not only known for his clinical skills, but as a thoughtful and caring physician. He also served as VP and treasurer of the Edward Hand Medical Heritage Foundation, now know as the Lancaster Medical Heritage Museum. And that is only one example of his many contributions to the Lancaster community outside of his medical practice. I will always remember him fondly and with great admiration. Nikitas J. Zervanos, M.D.

**Nikitas Zervanos** - June 13 at 06:07 PM

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“ I am sorry to learn that Dr. McCann has passed. I felt honored that I worked, as an RN at LGH, when Dr. McCann practiced cardiology, especially the (M2G2) years.

He enriched the lives of staff, as he respectfully cared for patients and families. My sincere condolences to his family, friends and peers.

Sincerely,  
Bev Lech

**Beverly Lech** - June 11 at 05:37 PM

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“ Bill McCann was a wonderful person who I will deeply miss. My years playing golf with Bill at our Parsomore outings was so much fun. What a competitor he was and so enjoyable to be with. He was part of my 80th Birthday celebration. My condolences to his family.

Bob Sneath

**Robert G Sneath** - June 10 at 09:20 PM

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“ I was so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. Our 1953 class will miss him. We loved having him at our luncheons for the past 15 years. He will be missed by all. Our sincere sympathy and love.  
Shirley Yingst Sternberger

**Shirley Y Sternberger** - June 09 at 03:34 PM