



Edward David McDowell

August 3, 1942 - April 4, 2018

Edward David McDowell

1942-2018

Edward David McDowell passed away peacefully April 4 in the arms of his loving wife of 48 years, in his home in Corvallis, OR. He was 75.

Ed was born in Orrville, Ohio, to Doris and Reeve McDowell, the first of 2 boys. A lifelong student, he earned his Ph.D. in engineering from The Ohio State University (where else?) in 1984. He taught at Oregon State University from then until he retired as professor emeritus in 2000.

He worked during semester breaks under contract for the Air Force, the Navy, and at Kasetsart University in Thailand. He craved information in a wide and wild range of subjects, always ready to share his knowledge.

Ed had a sharp wit and a grand sense of humor. You could easily tell he was teasing from the sparkle in his eyes and the smile behind his beard.

Ed loved cars not only because they were machines but also because of their design and appearance. He spent numerous hours in his garage restoring classic vehicles. His sailboat was a classic, too. He earned his private pilot's license in 1986, providing him the opportunity to travel his path by air, land or water. Ed was always looking for something to "do". If he wasn't canoeing in

the Arctic Circle, he was scuba diving in Tahiti or Honduras, or sailing around the West Indies or flying cross-country to an air show. He loved life and recently claimed "I've had a good run".

His dogs, Woody and Rusty, were part of his family. Having them along on walks in the woods of their retirement home in the mountains above Ashland, OR, added to the many joys of his life.

He was predeceased by his parents.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Marjorie, also left to remember him are his brother, Terry, his sister (in-law) Paula, and his nieces Carolynn and Allison.

We hold him close in our grateful hearts

Ed requested no services to be held. The family suggests a donation to the ALS Foundation or to a no-kill animal shelter to honor his memory.

Tribute Wall

TE

“ Terry lit a candle in memory of Edward David McDowell



terry - January 07, 2023 at 03:42 PM

MF

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Mike Fordyce - September 17, 2020 at 08:02 PM

TC

“ I came from Taiwan to Oregon State graduate school in September 1983 and Dr. McDowell was my adviser. He was the very first American in the world to say my last name the way it is and I have been using that sound till today.

Ed is a marvelous professor and down to earth person. In all occasions we were together, I only recalled how he encouraged me through the years at OSU. He is a man of principal with high standards. I enjoyed his teaching and help over those precious years.

On the day I was leaving Corvallis to fly to Delaware for my first job out of graduate school, I ran into Ed in Covell Hall and burst into tears on his shoulder, hugging. He was there when I needed him on the first day, and he was there on the last day I was leaving. There is not a second Ed in my life since. He has influenced me. Thank you Ed.

*Sincerely,
Tony Chou*

Tony Chou - September 11, 2019 at 07:17 AM

CR

“ One memory I have of Uncle Ed is when he helped watch my sister and me at Disneyland when we were small. Allison was still really young and was afraid to go on boats. I wanted to go to Tom Sawyer's Island and wasn't being very understanding of my sister's fears. Ed was in charge of us for some time at the park, and he was tremendously patient with us. He talked about how the boats at Disneyland worked, the depth of the water, and statistics on water safety, and he slowly both convinced my sister to get on the boat and--by his example--showed me how to be more patient and understanding.

At the library in the house in Corvallis, Ed would always put down his reading to talk to you, and when I was young I learned a lot about how to interact with people just by his example.

Ed was always supportive of my studies and always showed a genuine interest in what I was doing. He knew so much about history (and pretty much every other subject that you could think of), and I remember having discussions with him about Machiavelli and the Roman general Agrippa over dinners at Vito's and Isabella's in Monterey.

I miss Ed a lot.

Carolynn Roncaglia - June 08, 2018 at 12:52 AM

AR

“ One of the last times I saw Uncle Ed, as I was putting away my camera, he said, "Hey you. I want to talk to you."

Even at 30, my first instinct was I'm in trouble!

However, he instead asked if I considered going back to school for photography. I hadn't actually. And while I ultimately went back to school for a different subject, it was that conversation that was the driving force behind the decision to go back to school.

Of course that's not the only memory I have...

Uncle Ed jokingly telling me there were poisonous snakes outside my window and me believing him, riding in the boat, him losing spectacularly at Risk, Apostle Island tour in WI, getting "coal" instead of a gameboy for my birthday, bugging him when he was reading in the library, reading things he would put down (I have no doubt that helped in my economics class), playing with Rusty... just to name a few!

But as I start my new career, it's Uncle Ed's encouragement and that conversation with him at the mountain house I'll remember and be thankful for and think of often.

Allison Roncaglia - May 10, 2018 at 12:27 PM

RB

“ We did not meet Ed until later in life, (2012) when we bought a cabin in the Cascades and became vacation house neighbors. Ed and I were both engineers and shared many similar thoughts on how to do things, including how to live your life and how to interact with society. Engineering was like a "methodology" for both of us.

He was the type of person that everyone wanted to be around and was amazingly intelligent. We wish we had met him earlier in life and were able to spend more time together. He will be missed and always remembered.

Ron & Laurie Burley

Ron & Laurie Burley - April 29, 2018 at 09:11 PM

BM

“ Ed and I were like brothers starting with sharing a bachelor house in Erie, PA in I believe 1964. Ed was always very competitive and always won the martini drinking contests. We both moved to Wisconsin and started our sports car racing adventure. We also did a lot of canoeing on rivers and lakes, even pretended we were duck hunting a few times. Ed introduced us to this girl who lived near him in Milwaukee that he thought was a lot of fun to be with. They got married and move to Ohio for Ed to get his PHD. We stayed in touch from Illinois and visited a few times. We both moved to Oregon and the good times continued. We were very good at egging each other on to get into many things. When our kids got to college age Ed told me, you get them to Oregon State and I will get them through, he did, the second was a little harder than the first. What a great run to the end with the greatest friend. What a great job by Marjorie helping Ed through the last several months, we had some great conversations with him during those months.

Bill & Mary Ann Madison

Bill Madison - April 26, 2018 at 03:07 PM

BM

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Bill Madison - April 26, 2018 at 01:40 PM

KC

“ I met "Dr. McDowell" when I was a grad student at OSU in the mid-1990s. He got me started in the OSU Flying Club, where I finished my training in 1998. We shared many great flights around Oregon and Washington during those years.

But the real story occurred when Ed and I flew my 1966 Citabria 7ECA to Oshkosh, WI in the summer of 2003. The little 118 HP Lycoming O-235 drug us over an amazing tour of the western US, including a 14,000' "squeak" over the Rockies and a majestic aerial tour of Yellowstone. The U.S. is an amazing place at 1000' above the ground and 89 mph.

While Ed had many interests, we really shared a love of airplanes.

Thanks Ed for being a teacher, mentor, friend and fellow airplane nut.

Kurt Colvin, San Luis Obispo, CA



Kurt Colvin - April 23, 2018 at 01:27 PM

DB

What a great memory flying to Osh must be. I would have loved to have met him. I am the current owner of his Cherokee 9577J. In doing research on prior owners I have read plenty about Ed. Fascinating man. He must have loved her because she is in fine shape. RIP Mr. McDowell

Dennis Brown - September 15, 2021 at 07:44 PM

WM

“ *I have started to write this note every day since Marjorie phoned us to tell us the news...*

Ed & Marjorie have been wonderful friends of ours since we met them in 1974, when Ed joined the Oregon State University Engineering Faculty. Ed lit up the university with his intelligence, great sense of humor, and sly grin (which Ed always showed when he got you thinking & he waited for you to "get it"). I regard Ed as one of the very best friends that I have ever had the honor to know. Julie loved Ed also & we both know that Ed regarded the luckiest thing he ever did in life, was to meet Marjorie. Ed & Marjorie demonstrated their love & commitment to each other every time we were together with them. Ed & Marjorie are both in our hearts during this difficult time.....

Love, Willie & Julie Mercer

William Mercer - April 21, 2018 at 06:34 PM



“ *3 files added to the album Memories Album*



DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - April 19, 2018 at 04:49 PM

BM

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Bill Madison - April 15, 2018 at 03:29 PM

LL

“ Marge,

Please accept my heartfelt sympathy on your loss. Ed was a dear friend of mine, who will be sorely missed. I have great memories of my interactions with Ed during the 10 years he and I had worked together at OSU, until his retirement. Even long after his retirement, at least until 2006 if my memory serves me well, Ed would contact me whenever he was in Corvallis. We would go out for lunch at Izzy's and spend over an hour just chatting and eating. One of my vivid recollections is the trip Ed and I took in 1997 for a conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico. We had an amazing time!

Logen Logendran

Logen Logendran - April 14, 2018 at 03:17 PM

TM

“ I have always been very proud of my brother's many accomplishments, but I have never been more proud of him than during his illness with the terribly disabling disease of ALS. I witnessed courage, dignity, grace, and even a sense of humor all through the progressive decline with his health. I shall never forget my brother's strength when faced with an adversity you cannot win. As many younger brothers, I was always trying to do the same things as my brother at a very young age even if he was three years older. In my case, this continued way past childhood. Ed always led the way with high goals which helped me to develop higher expectations of myself. I, most likely, would not have even pursued a college education if my brother would not have first set a path in that direction for me to follow. Following his path to multiple engineering degrees; however, was not only out of my interest, it was even more out of my ability level. Ed was my protector when I was little and my role model who I looked up to in later life. I shall miss him very much.

I'm so very thankful my brother was able to stay in his own home the entire duration of his illness. This would not have been possible if it were not for the love, commitment, and determination of his wife Marjorie who remained by his side the entire time helping with his every need. This too took a tremendous amount of strength and devotion. Ed had a loyal and devoted partner in life which in one respect made him a very lucky man. My sincere appreciation is extended to Marjorie for everything she did to help my brother in his time of need which I am sure included many sleepless nights.

Terry

Terry McDowell - April 13, 2018 at 08:01 PM

TM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Terry McDowell - April 13, 2018 at 07:18 PM

EB

“ Marge, I am so sorry about Ed's passing. He was a remarkable man. His loss leaves a huge space. Please accept my sympathy.
Beth Bargsten

elizabeth bargsten - April 13, 2018 at 01:09 PM

TM

“ It is hard to think of one, two, or even a handful of special memories of "Uncle" Ed. It is easier to recall how important and special I felt when we had time together. I will always remember, however, how he walked for graduation the year I graduated at OSU, Captain Ed sailing in the San Juans, and walking the pits at PIR Speedway during the Indy races. Ed taught me to think for myself, have a sense of humor, and to try new things. I remember him with love and fondness, and being part Team Ed and Marjorie.

Tashia (Madison) Murchison

Tashia Murchison - April 12, 2018 at 05:19 PM

EH

“ During Ed's and Marjorie's time in Southern Oregon, Ed and I worked with Bob Given in the project to build a mountain fire station. Ed initiated a newspaper, *The Alarm*, for the Greensprings Fire and Rescue volunteer fire department which greatly mitigated the process of getting the community to realize they had a stake in the fire station. *The Alarm* continues with its most recent issue arriving this spring. I am sad to hear of Ed's passing but have good memories of his humor and editorial dedication when we worked together.

Ed Hillard

Edward J Hillard - April 11, 2018 at 02:43 PM

M.

“ I am very saddened to hear of Ed's passing from Wil Mercer. Ed will always be remembered as my favorite professor, trusted advisor, and friend. I will also remember visits with you and Ed at your Corvallis home; sharing a meal, talking about topics other than school or work, and admiring Ed's toys in the garage. I was lonely when I first got to OSU, and not a focused student, and Ed was able to reach me and get me interested in IE. I think I took every class Ed taught – my peers said “really, Advanced Quality Control and Industrial Statistics?”. I appreciated the occasional assistance from Ed with my early business endeavors and the fact he always tried to stay in touch coming to our get togethers Mark Childs and I held after starting Integrated Facility Services.

I just wanted you to know that I am thinking of you and remembering Ed with a smile on my face and a tug on my heart.

Kind regards,

Jeff Mason

M.Mcdowell - April 11, 2018 at 01:24 PM

M.

*“ I will always remember getting flowers from Woody Hayes the day I started working in Athletics, and for the Great Pumpkin. It was tough to move from Industrial Engineering where I enjoyed working with almost everyone. Ed was easy to get along with and patient with his work. IE was a wonderful place to work, and had terrific people.
Lynda Wolfenbarger*

M.Mcdowell - April 11, 2018 at 01:15 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - April 10, 2018 at 05:41 PM

MP

“ To Marge and family – we are so sorry for your loss. May the memories of the love you shared with Ed bring you peace and comfort now and always. Our heartfelt sympathy, Matt & Margie Ponzoha

Margie Ponzoha - April 09, 2018 at 01:36 PM

TZ

“ To Marge and family. Greetings from Wayne County, Ohio. We send our sympathy and thoughts. We are sure you have many pleasant memories. Love. Randall and Marlys McDowell Zeigler, Marshallville.



The Zeiglers - April 07, 2018 at 01:43 PM