



## William George Earley

October 28, 1955 - June 15, 2019

William George Earley, 63, of Corvallis, Oregon, died suddenly on Saturday, June 15, 2019, a few hours after riding his bicycle up and over McKenzie Pass in Oregon's Cascade Mountains. The previous day he hiked with his wife and daughter surrounded by wildflowers and snow-covered peaks. He was doing what he loved, in a place he loved, with the people he loved. For that, we will always be grateful.

Born in Springfield, Massachusetts, Bill was the beloved son of Robert W. Earley (who preceded Bill in death by two weeks at age 97), and the late Arlene Webster Earley.

Bill loved the outdoors and spent the best moments of his life hiking, bicycling, rock climbing, skiing, running and camping. He summited Mt. Rainier and many other Cascade peaks along with most of New York's 46 Adirondack High Peaks, and mountaineered in Ecuador and the Alps. He trekked the Annapurna Sanctuary in Nepal and rock-climbed countless routes in the Shawangunks, Rockies, Black Hills and elsewhere.

In the late 1980's Bill was active in the Albany (NY) chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club, leading bike rides and hikes, maintaining trails, and meeting the woman who became the love of his life. With his wife, he canoed Adirondack ponds, kayaked Oregon rivers, explored National Parks, and

captained their tandem bicycle while she pedaled behind him as stoker.

Bill was an accomplished cross-country runner throughout high school (Worthington, OH) and college (Miami University of Ohio). He earned his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Vermont in 1984. His 25-year pharmaceutical research career included positions at Sterling Winthrop (Rensselaer NY), Nycomed (Malvern PA) and AMRI (Albany NY). In 2009, he began a new career in nanotechnology at the College of Nanoscale Science & Technology (Albany NY). Bill and his family lived in East Greenbush, NY for 18 years before moving to Corvallis, where Bill enjoyed doing photoresist research for Inpria Corp.

Bill is survived by his loving wife of 26 years, Mary Beth (nee Aniano), son Christopher, and daughter Samantha; sister Margaret DeVolt of North Bend, WA; sister Marilyn Renfrew and her husband Roger of Skowhegan, ME; niece Megan Renfrew of Baltimore, MD, nephew Travis DeVolt of North Bend, WA, and nephew Ira Renfrew of Arlington, MA; and by aunts, uncles, cousins and 5 great-nephews and -nieces.

A celebration of Bill's life will be held in Corvallis on Friday, July 12 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm at Walnut Barn in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Casual attire is requested for this picnic-style gathering. Guests are encouraged to bring a favorite dish, wine or beer. Children are welcome to come and play. An open mic sharing of stories and memories will begin at 3:15.

A dual memorial service for Bill and his father will be Saturday, August 17, 2:30 pm at the United Church of Underhill, Vermont.

Bill's family would be pleased if you would use this website ([www.demosdurdan.com](http://www.demosdurdan.com)) to upload photos and share memories of your adventures with him. In lieu of flowers, those wishing to honor him in a special way are asked to make

a donation to “Albany Chapter – ADK” (Adirondack Mountain Club), P.O. Box 2116 ESP Sta., Albany, NY 12220. Please write “In memory of Bill Earley” on your check. If you prefer, make a Memorial Gift to the Sierra Club by visiting <https://www.sierraclub.org/giving/commemorative-gifts>.

True to form, Bill has hiked on well ahead of us. As we follow his footsteps, we will keep him forever in our hearts.

# Previous Events

## Casual Gathering

JUL 12. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (PT)

Martin Luther King Jr. Park  
4905 NW Walnut Blvd  
Corvallis, OR

# Tribute Wall

RS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Ron Schilb** - May 15, 2020 at 08:55 PM

RS

*Bill on top of the Maiden and Matt on rappel*

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**Ron Schilb** - May 15, 2020 at 08:55 PM

RS

*Bill, Matt Weideman and I went on 3 week trip to Colorado, Wyoming, and I believe Montana. Bill was the fastest hiker I ever traveled with. I could not keep up with him. I met him through David Diller who ran Cross Country with him at Miami, University. I lived in Bellbrook, OH at the time. We climbed Devils Tower, the Needles in SD, The Grand Teton, and perhaps Mt. Jackson in Glacier NP. We spent some time in Boulder St. Park near Boulder, CO and that was when we climbed the Maiden, and later the Petite Grepon shown in the photo.*

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**Ronald E. Schilb** - August 28, 2025 at 07:47 AM

SS

“ *Tess and I just saw the Cloudsplitter newsletter and were greatly saddened by your loss. We celebrated our 26th anniversary October 2. Fond memories of those Vermont bike rides with you two*

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**Stan Stoklosa** - October 03, 2019 at 05:31 PM

MR

“*Mary Beth, I am very sorry for your loss. Bill was always a wonderful person to be around both professionally and outside of work. I will always remember the countless bicycle adventures and outdoor activities that we went on with the Adirondak Mountain Club.*

*Michael Reuman*

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**Michael Reuman** - July 12, 2019 at 06:50 PM

SS

“*I have great memories of working in the lab with Bill at Nycomed. He was very bright, helpful and easy to talk to. My sympathies to his family. Stan Schmidt*

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**Stanley Schmidt** - July 12, 2019 at 09:48 AM

AT

“*Mary Beth, Samantha, and Chris. I am indeed very sorry for your loss. Bill and I were colleagues at Sterling in Albany and I was ALWAYS struck by his inherent optimism, Positive attitude, openness, and sincerity. He was an inspiration to me and I am shocked by the news.*

*Adi Treasurywala*

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**Adi Treasurywala** - July 12, 2019 at 09:21 AM

JG

“ Mary Beth, Samantha, and Chris. I am truly saddened by the loss of Bill. Please accept my sincere condolences. I really enjoyed working with Bill at Sterling Winthrop Research Institute; he and I were in the same research group. He was probably one of the most positive people I have ever met. Other than the outdoor activities that many have shared I wish to comment on his love of folk music. He invited me and my first wife, Carol, to "Old Songs" in the Albany area. I think the first concert that we saw featured Michael Cooney. I fell in love with the music and performers that we heard over the years. I still enjoy listening to those artists the most; thank you Bill! I was recently thinking of those days when I received the news of Bill's passing. Again please know that I am thinking of you and Bill.

-Jim Gainor

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**James Gainor** - July 11, 2019 at 05:39 PM

ME

“ 3 files added to the album *A Great Dad*



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**Mary Beth Earley** - July 10, 2019 at 09:52 AM

BF

*I'm a former roommate of his. I'm just now reading about his passing in the latest Miamian. Bill was a great guy who overcame obstacles to do amazing things! I loved his family, too. I lost touch with Bill many years ago. This saddens me. I'm sure you touched many lives and your legacy will be incalculable. Bruce Fingerhut*

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**Bruce Fingerhut** - May 14, 2020 at 07:15 PM

JS

“ 2 files added to the album East Greenbush



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**Joe Schroeder** - July 09, 2019 at 12:37 PM

ME

“ *Mary Beth, Samantha, and Chris,*  
*We are so very saddened by the news of Bill's passing and your great loss. We remember him as a larger than life environmentalist, incredibly involved dad and loving, husband and a good friend. May his memory always bring you smiles. Bless you all during this painful time.*

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**Mary-Jo and Julie Ehrlich** - July 08, 2019 at 11:24 AM

DP

“ Mary Beth, Samantha, and Christopher, I'm so sorry for your sudden loss. I worked with Bill at Inpria. We were not in the same team, but he had been always helping us in the lab. Last summer, I had a chance to climb Mt. St. Helens with him and Samantha, his nephew, his friend George, and our coworkers. It was such a nice and unforgettable memory for me. I'm so grateful that I had that chance with him.

*Rest in peace, Bill.*

*Deok-Hie Park*



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**Deok-Hie Park** - July 07, 2019 at 06:08 PM

ME

“ 1 file added to the album East Greenbush



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**MB Earley** - July 02, 2019 at 11:23 PM

MF

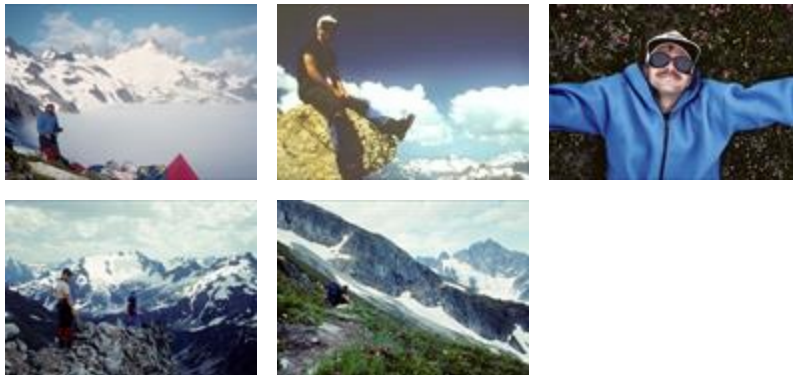
“ Mary Beth, my heartfelt sympathy to you and your family in your loss. I'm thinking of you and wishing you the comfort of good memories and close friends. Hugs, Mary Fellows

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**Mary Fellows** - June 30, 2019 at 08:58 AM

GB

“ Our hearts go out to Mary Beth and family at the time of this sudden loss. We are so very sorry! Bill was our friend and co-adventurer for more than 40 years. The three of us practiced climbing after work, hiked and climbed on weekends, and sometimes were able to string enough days together to do something bigger. In December 1983 Bill joined us in Nepal for a trek to the Annapurna Sanctuary and in 1990 he joined us to do the Ptarmigan Traverse in the North Cascades. In all those years and sometimes stressful circumstances we never saw Bill upset. He always did far more than his share of whatever needed doing. His enthusiasm for learning and for adventure was contagious. He was truly the finest kind. With love,  
George and Lisa Biehl



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George Biehl - June 30, 2019 at 02:58 AM

MM

“ I am so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. We worked together at CNSE under Dr. Brainard. He was a constant source of inspiration and humor to every person he met from undergraduate to graduate students and staff alike. Four years after Bill left the Brainard lab we still share memories of him from his amazing ability to whistle a tune to his unending knowledge of chemistry. Bill was a mentor to me and I am thankful for the time I had to work alongside him.

*Michael Murphy*



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**Michael Murphy** - June 29, 2019 at 09:17 AM

PG

“ Dear Mary Beth and family,

*I'm very sorry to hear of Bill's passing. We shared many years at AMRI. Could always count on Bill for lots of ideas and a smile. I also remember hiking Giant mountain with him in the Adirondacks. We climbed one of the steep slides in the fall and he brought ropes as an extra precaution. It was my first introduction to hiking with rope assistance. I'm not surprised Bill kept up with his adventurous spirit.*

*Pete Guzzo*

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**Pete Guzzo** - June 28, 2019 at 12:35 PM

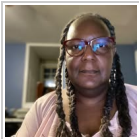
CO

“ Mary Beth and family, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Bill was a great chemist, outdoorsman and friend to many. I have strong memories of Bill from our days at SWRI and AMRI. Bill was one of the key chemists who helped us in so many ways during the early, sometimes painful days of AMRI. I cannot thank him enough for his intellect, sense of humor, efforts and enthusiasm as part of the team that helped us become a success. His memory will live on through the experiences that we all had with him.

*Chet Opalka*

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**Chet Opalka** - June 28, 2019 at 11:41 AM



“ Mary Beth I am so sorry to hear about your husband's passing. You and your family are in my prayers.

*Beverly Hayes  
Albany Public Library*

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**Beverly Hayes** - June 27, 2019 at 05:05 PM

RL

“ I am so very sorry for your family's sudden and sad loss.

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**Rebecca Lubin** - June 27, 2019 at 10:02 AM

ME

“ 1 file added to the album *Our Oregon Life*



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**Mary Beth Earley** - June 26, 2019 at 03:45 PM

ME

“ 1 file added to the album *Our Oregon Life*



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**Mary Beth Earley** - June 26, 2019 at 03:44 PM

ME

“ 1 file added to the album *Our Oregon Life*



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**Mary Beth Earley** - June 26, 2019 at 03:43 PM

GJ

“ *Mary Beth, I am very sorry to learn that Bill passed away. It was such a delight to meet him at your home last month with the library staff group. Bill was very warm and welcoming to all of us. My sympathy to you and your family. Genna J.*

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**Genna James** - June 25, 2019 at 08:44 PM

LM

“ *Mary Beth, Chris, and Sam, I am so so sorry for your loss. I've worked along side Bill for 2 years at Inpria and he was one of my favorite co-workers. We chatted everyday and I will miss him immensely.*

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**Lauren McQuade** - June 25, 2019 at 03:30 PM

JD

“ I didn't know Bill, but the loss of anybody's loved one is always a sad event. Mary Beth, I don't think you and I have ever shared a conversation at choir, but my thoughts go out to you now. May your memories of better times carry you through this valley of grief and eventually bring you to a place of peace.

*Jan Dromlewicz (alto section, back row)*

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**Jan Dromlewicz** - June 25, 2019 at 03:11 PM

DC

“ Unfortunately I never met Bill. Mary Beth is part of my choir and yoga communities and so I send tender wishes of support to her and the family. Holding you in my heart.

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**Deeda Chamberlain** - June 25, 2019 at 02:16 PM