



Derek Alan Winn

September 7, 2023

Derek Alan Winn, 62, of Fort Collins, Colorado, passed away September 7 , 2023 at UCHealth Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland.

Derek was born July 11, 1961 in Denver, Colorado to Byron and Donna Winn. He was raised in Fort Collins with his siblings, Byron and Julie, and was a graduate of Poudre High School. From a young age, Derek was distinguished for his skill in gymnastics, competing at a high level and performing with Illinois State University's Gamma Phi Circus while a student at ISU.

Derek became an Exercise Physiologist and worked in the cardiovascular lab for the UCHealth System. He performed treadmill tests on patients and was known for his ability to carefully read EKG test results and identify issues that helped save the lives of many patients. His strength of character, professionalism, and warm demeanor earned the love and respect of medical staff and patients alike. He trained new employees and was patient and kind in his teaching methods. His coworkers could tell when Derek was working by the way the pens and highlighters would be lined up on the counter at the start of a shift. He was responsible for providing over reads of EKGs to ensure patients received the highest quality of care. He was known to catch things others had missed, thus improving patient outcomes.

Derek reduced his work hours earlier this year so he could have more time for

golf and other activities he enjoyed, and he played what he reported as a great round of golf in the hours before the stroke that took his life. While his death was untimely, Derek enjoyed a full life centered on meaningful work and the family he loved.

Derek is survived by his mother, Donna Winn, siblings Byron (Laura) Winn, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts) and Julie (Paul) Knighton (Fort Collins, Colorado), and his dear nieces and nephews Daniel Knighton (Steffi), Sara Knighton Percy (Logan), Andrew Knighton (Pippa), Seth Knighton (Callie), Connor Winn, Brady Winn and Gillian Winn.

Derek was preceded in death by his father, Dr. C. Byron Winn.

Derek was a registered organ donor whose final act as a caregiver was to donate his eyes, organs, and tissue through Donor Alliance and Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank.

A Private event is being planned.

Tribute Wall

RF

“ *Derek was a great guy in and out of the gym. I am sad to hear about his passing, but happy to see that he touched the hearts of so many. Rest well, my friend!...Ron Fleming.*

Ron Fleming - December 14, 2023 at 06:02 PM

JG

“ *Derek was the kindest man. Truly a gentle soul with a passion for helping everyone around him. I feel lucky that I had an opportunity to work with him and learn from him while coaching gymnastics and performing in Gamma Phi. I am blessed to have known him as a friend. Prayers sent for all who knew him.*

Jill Garneau - December 14, 2023 at 04:22 PM

DR

“ I was shocked and saddened to hear of Derek's unexpected passing.

Derek was a true joy to work with!

He was a team player, was always willing to help our patients and put their needs first, especially when asked to add on an ECG for one of our research patients while they were having another test, to make it more convenient for the patient.

I will miss working with Derek and seeing his smiling face as he greeted me walking down the hall.

It was so caring and generous of him to be an organ donor, but not surprising he made that life saving gift.

I was leaving MCR to go to an appointment when I heard the announcement for his honor walk. I would have definitely gone to show support.

When I got home and checked my mail that day, my new DONATE LIFE license plates had arrived. Derek was in my thoughts again, as I reflected upon his gift to save others.

Derek had a significant impact and will be missed!

My deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Warmly,

Darcee Robeson, RN

Darcee Robeson - September 11, 2023 at 11:58 AM



It is really hard to believe Derek is gone. He was a great friend and roommate—and a gifted athlete. He was the kind of guy who would help anyone and never said a bad word about anyone. I learned so much from him. Rest In Peace, friend.

Bob Carroll - December 14, 2023 at 06:41 PM