



## Will Whirty

July 15, 2021

William Whirty signed off from this life to adventure into a new eternity on July 15, 2021. Known to all as Will or Bill, he was just shy of his 68th birthday.

Bill was born August 26, 1953 to Clyde and Barbara Whirty in Hartford Connecticut, the oldest of four siblings (David, Diane and Stephen). He was preceded by his parents and his brother David.

He leaves behind his children, Niomi Pfohl (husband Ben), Bethany Whirty-Dyer (husband Steve), Ehren Whirty (wife Karith), Blake Wallin, Nina Roys (husband Scott), and his beloved JJ.

Will had many passions in life, blending them together whenever possible. He loved family gatherings, fly fishing, playing and coaching basketball, and growing tomatoes. Most of all he loved his family, children and grandchildren, always loving to get everybody together for a bike ride or cookout and nothing made him smile broader than interacting with his grandchildren.

Will enjoyed good Scotch, he never hit a driver straight off any tee-box, he loved playing cards especially with his weekly poker friends and would never pass up a good scallop meal. He was becoming a particularly good cook before his accident. In his youth he drove a 1972 Triumph Bonneville from here to Connecticut, complaining about the horrible suspension all the way.

And lastly, he had a lifelong addiction to black licorice.

Bill loved wading in the river casting upstream at many spillways to trick wily trout or trolling in his float tube for big Rainbows on high mountain lakes. He enjoyed being a guide for anyone wanting to learn how to fly fish. He fell in love with the canyon country of Utah. After his first visit to Moab and points south, he returned, spending two weeks every fall searching for ancient rock art. Finding the remote sites and imagining who the artist might have been that carved or painted them fascinated him.

He coached JAA recreation basketball for grades 4th, 5th and 6th for many years. He loved supporting children in learning and playing the game he had learned to love so much.

Bill worked for the City of Fort Collins for 39 years, starting as a summer seasonal employee at Grandview Cemetery and retiring as Manager of Parks. He would say that he was fortunate to be in management during the “golden years” of the department’s growth. During his career, the City added dozens of parks, started the trail system, and the Parks Department jumped from twenty employees to over a hundred in the summer. He was enormously proud of the camaraderie and pride that the department exhibited, and he would share with others that he had the best job in the city. His innumerable contributions will leave a long-lasting impact to the park system. His legacy remains.

Will had a serious accident in 2015, when he fell and injured his spinal cord, leaving him paralyzed from chest down. With perseverance and lots of physical therapy with Dr. Nancy Quick at Berkana Rehabilitation he was able to walk again within a year. Although it was only for 5 to 10 minutes at a time it made him feel wonderful and helped him stretch his 6’4” frame a little bit. He never quit trying. Bill had the heart and soul of a poet, and after the accident looked inward and wrote several heartfelt poems.

Will was “Tall Grandpa” to nine grandchildren; Avery, Atticus, Elliott, Welles, Eloria, Cordilla, Liam, Camilla and Felix who will miss him dearly. He was a generous and kind man, a wonderful teacher and mentor to many. He had many friends, touched many lives, was loved and will be missed.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, September 11, 2021 from 3pm – 6pm at City Park Shelter #7. All who knew him are invited. Please bring your own chair or blanket.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Cancer Research Institute on Bills behalf.

Online: <https://www.cancerresearch.org/join-the-cause/donate/one-time-donati>  
on

Or

By mail, please follow instructions at this link:

<https://www.cancerresearch.org/join-the-cause/donate/one-time-donation>

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

SEP 11. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (MT)

Fort Collins City Park Shelter 7  
Fort Collins, CO

# Tribute Wall



“ *Will Whirty*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Meat & Cheese Sympathy Gift Crate was purchased for the family of Will Whirty.*



August 01, 2021 at 12:51 PM



“ *Our deepest condolences go out to Joan and Will's family. He enjoyed life even when his health posed immense challenges for him and his family. His strength inspired many of us and we are grateful that he is now at peace.*  
*Deborah and Peter Stern*

**Deborah Stern** - July 31, 2021 at 05:51 PM



“ *I was so sorry to hear that Bill had passed. I didn't know him well except as a fellow City employee. He was revered among my colleagues who knew him well. He will be missed. Thinking of his family and friends.*

**Emily Wilmsen** - July 27, 2021 at 02:45 PM

ND

“ I first met Bill when he helped me through the process of planting a tree in City Park and installing a park bench beside the tree as a tribute to my late husband. He was kind and sympathetic and made the whole process painless. Through this experience we discovered we were actually neighbors living on the same block! I admired Bill's efforts to walk after the accident and was saddened to hear that cancer claimed him as its victim. I send my heartfelt condolences to all of his family and I shall think of him whenever I enjoy the wonderful parks of our city. His legacy will live on.

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**Nancy Devine** - July 26, 2021 at 08:25 PM

CJ

“ I was so sorry to hear about Bill. I'm sure if Brian were still around, he would have many words to share. Maybe the two of them can get together in the afterlife and fish and discuss City Park.

*Catherine Cole Janonis*

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**Catherine Cole Janonis** - July 26, 2021 at 05:11 PM

BW

“ There are no words that can express the feelings of loss for a parent. My Dad was my rock, a friend, and an advisor. I hope that I can emulate his kindness, strength, and love to carry on his memory. I love you Dad, and will miss you forever. I hope that you are no longer in pain, and that you are fly fishing now! ❤️❤️❤️



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**Beth Whirty** - July 25, 2021 at 09:55 PM

DS

*I had the pleasure of working with Bill at the City of Fort Collins. Later he coached my young son's basketball team, the Dunn Dolphins. It was such a pleasure knowing Bill. He was always warm and welcoming. I am sorry for your loss.*

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**Dennis Sumner** - July 26, 2021 at 09:40 AM

DS

*And what I appreciated most about Bill was how he engaged with the boys he coached. He could push them to work hard, give all they could, and try their best. And at the same time give them love and encouragement. He provided a beautiful blend for helping the boys learn skills, enjoy the game and have fun. This blend of hard work and warm engagement was a wonderful gift that Bill shared.*

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**Dennis Sumner** - July 26, 2021 at 10:18 AM

LB

*“ I am so sorry to hear about my cousin, Billy, as we called him, has passed; please accept my sympathies and prayers to all the family, who I know will miss him. The last time I spent any time with him, was as teenagers, along with David, Allison, and Candy; we always had a great time together. He, like his siblings and parents, always made you feel at home and welcomed. Again, I am sorry for your loss, especially so soon after Barbara.*

*Leslie Boyd*

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**Leslie Boyd** - July 25, 2021 at 08:36 PM

DA

“ Bill and I move out to Colorado in 1978. We shared a love of music and were early Grateful Dead adopters. When Gerry Garcia died we sat on City park Hill and lit a candle. He was a great dad to our 3 children. He was a generous and kind man and always kept me under his wing. He was full of fire and light and loved to laugh and play. We will miss him but also know he will be watching over us all. He love deeply and especially loved Joan who lovingly cared for him up until the end.

### *RIPPLE*

*"If my words did glow with the gold of sunshine  
And my tunes were played on the harp unstrung  
Would you hear my voice come through the music?  
Would you hold it near as it were your own?"*

*It's a hand-me-down, the thoughts are broken  
Perhaps they're better left unsung  
I don't know, don't really care  
Let there be songs to fill the air.*

*Ripple in still water  
When there is no pebble tossed  
Nor wind to blow*

*Reach out your hand if your cup be empty  
If your cup is full, may it be again  
Let it be known there is a fountain  
That was not made by the hands of men.*

*There is a road, no simple highway  
Between the dawn and the dark of night  
And if you go, no one may follow  
That path is for your steps alone.*

*Ripple in still water  
When there is no pebble tossed*

*Nor wind to blow"*



Deborah Arloski - July 23, 2021 at 05:49 PM

JK

“ Jim and I extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to Joan and the family. We treasure the times we spent with Will in Fort Collins and also having he and Joan here in PA. We learned to play cribbage just to be on the same playing field and have our cribbage smackdowns with them. Will caught his limit of walleye on Lake Erie and enjoyed eating them as much as catching them. We'll keep these memories and more close to our heart. Fly high Will!

Jim and Jan Kidder - July 23, 2021 at 04:29 PM

SA

*I think I met Bill in 6th or 7th grade. He was always a good guy, full of humor and willing to listen. When graduation came 40 years had magically disappeared before I saw him again. A little more gray, but nothing else had changed. He charmed the group of us at our pre 40th practice at La Trattoria and it was like we were all still in high school. I have somehow gotten the reputation of being a “talker”, but was never complimented on it till Bill said “I could sit you in a chair on my deck and listen to you all day!” It was without a doubt better than when Mr. Glover through the film reel at me for talking in class. I promise to always remember him and hold all the memories close. Absolutely on of the good guys! ❤️*

Susan Bromirski Anderson - July 25, 2021 at 01:40 PM

JK

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Jim and Jan Kidder** - July 23, 2021 at 03:57 PM

BW

*Love!*

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**Beth Whirty** - July 28, 2021 at 10:26 PM

KR

“ *Will, has always been Bill to me who I met 60 years ago along with David. We became fast friends and not long we became brothers, I was fortunate to have spent every Holiday with the Whirtys. Bill and I would fish as often as we could and I introduced him to FlyFishing and years later the teacher became the pupil learning how to fish Western waters.*

*Most memorable day fishing would have to be a float trip on the Platt with Jeff manning the oars the two of us had boated 200 beautiful trout including 66 doubles. The numbers came from Jeff not a fish story, five of the most vivid hours on the water. Thanks for the memories Billy I love you. Kevin*

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**Kevin Reichler** - July 23, 2021 at 03:15 PM