



# In Memorium

## Carlos P. Sullivan, Jr., M.D.

### 1941 - 2016

by John P. Gambin, M.D.



Carlos Sullivan was colleague and friend. He brought me here to join him in an exceedingly busy Neurology practice. Even the two of us couldn't keep up, so within a year we invited Kurt Osborn. I realized early that Carlos was an energizer bunny with own no sleep room. He would arrive in the morning his usual elvish positive mobilized self, even when up all night. He was a wellspring of ideas, totally democratic in his revue and presentation of all of them. Many were easily discarded, but there were plenty of pearls. He loved Neurology and new scientific advancements and single handedly brought CT scanning to our community and then led the charge for MRI implementation. He never seemed daunted. I called him at his practice in Butte mere months ago. He was chirpy "looking out my office window at the beautiful view." He gave me no clue what he was having to deal with healthwise; just a joyous discussion of ideas and advances. That was quintessential Carlos, my friend, Our first H-DN Neurologist. I thank him and miss him.

#### *MEMORIAL FROM BUTTE MONTANA NEWSPAPER:*

Our loving, caring husband, wonderful father, father-in-law, and grandfather, Carlos Patrick Sullivan's soul peacefully left this earth on Nov. 6, 2016. At home, surrounded by his loving family, he made his transition to his new life's adventure.

Carlos, third generation Montanan, was born to Carlos P. Sullivan, Sr. and Thora Lee Sullivan in Butte on July 24, 1941. He attended Emerson Grade School and Butte High through his sophomore year. His family then moved to Bellevue, Washington where he graduated from Bellevue High School.

Upon completion of his undergraduate degree from the University of Washington, he married his soul mate Sheila, the love of his life who he met at Bellevue High School. He then went on to obtain his Doctor of Medicine Degree from the University of Washington and internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Hennepin County General Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It was during this residency that he discovered his love for Neurology. He was offered a Neurology Residency at the University of Minnesota to start after he completed his tour of duty with the U.S. Navy.

As a Navy physician, he was assigned to the U.S. Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Paris Island, South Carolina. While on duty, Carlos and fellow physician, Dr. Proux developed a protocol that substantially reduced heat stroke in the recruits attached to the depot. That protocol is still in use today. Upon his honorable discharge from active duty in 1971, Lt. Commander Sullivan received a letter of appreciation from Commanding General Hoffman of the U.S. Marine Corp Depot stating: "... I take this opportunity to present you this letter to bear witness to your outstanding accomplishments. You may take personal satisfaction in knowing that you have won, through your professional acumen and pleasant personality, the respect and admiration of all those Marines, both officer and enlisted, with whom you have worked and you have earned the reputation of being a 'Marine's Doctor'; one whom all Marines could approach with confidence and leave with respect." Following active duty, Dr. Sullivan returned to the University of Minnesota and completed a residency in Neurology. In his off time, Carlos enjoyed working with Daphne Krause at the Min-

neapolis Age and Opportunity Center that assisted elderly patients with receiving cardiac care and home healthcare. Carlos was proud of his participation as an expert witness testifying in Washington D.C. in front of Ted Kennedy and the subcommittee for Medicare reimbursement. His testimony helped bring about Medicare payment for home health care.

Carlos went on to set up a Neurology practice in the small northern California town of Eureka. His belief in the advancement of medicine for the benefit of his patients resulted in his placing a CAT scanner into the local hospital in 1975. At that time, this was one of three CAT scanners on the west coast.

While his dedication to his practice of Neurology and the advancement of medicine was his core passion, Carlos balanced that with his love for his family, friends, and animals. A true Irish boy from Butte, he instilled the love of hiking, fishing, and exploring in his children and grandchildren. All enjoyed many memorable times fishing with him on the rivers of Western Montana, Washington, and the Caribou region in Canada. His gentle nature and quick humor brought much laughter and love over the years. Another passion for Carlos was his love of flying. He proudly obtained his private pilot's license and instrument rating. He also loved property owned at the foothills of Mount Fleece. The property allowed endless hiking opportunities for him and Sheila with their Great Danes: Silkie, Chance, and Gracie. It also gave Carlos the chance to develop his skills in surveying, saw milling, wood working, carpentry, excavation, and

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operating their Bobcat.

Early on, Carlos developed special core values in his life. These values of love, learning, and giving continued to grow throughout his life. His generous, fun and loving nature remained into his last few days. In a gesture of love and devotion to his wife Sheila of 53 years, from his bed, Carlos gathered his daughters to be his “birthday helpers” and threw her a birthday party complete with family, friends, a Catholic priest, Irish pasties, balloons, flowers, beads, and cake. As it turned out, this was not only a birthday party for Sheila but also a celebration of a new life for Carlos. As Father Haffey gave Carlos his last rites, we were all invited to participate in this blessing by making the sign of the cross on his forehead.

During Dr. Sullivan’s 47 years of practice, he strove to provide compassionate care to all his patients. In his final days, he spoke of his concern for his patients and their wellbeing. He expressed his love for his family, friends, and Great Danes through peaceful smiles and kisses. Always quick with a smile, a helping hand, and encouraging words, Dr. Carlos Sullivan made an indelible impact on those who knew him as a husband, father, brother, doctor, and friend.

We thank God for allowing us to share our lives with such a wonderful, caring, kind, and loving man. He will be sorely missed, but will live on in our hearts through our memories.