



## William "Bill" David Barley PhD

February 28, 1950 - March 6, 2026

Bill didn't want a big obituary in the paper, so, as his wife, I decided to write one for him.

On February 28, 1950, William David Barley was born at Great Lakes Naval Hospital outside of Chicago, Illinois, to Irvin J. Barley and Josephine E. Triana Barley. Bill's father was in the Army, so the family traveled around, living in Germany a couple of times, but eventually settling down in San Antonio, Texas. Bill shared many wonderful stories of his family.

When Bill started grade school at St. Gregory's Catholic School in San Antonio, he met 2 guys, David and Roger, who would become lifelong friends. Bill talked about the trips and other adventures they had together over the years. Roger and David were able to visit and spend time with Bill over the last few months while Bill was still able to enjoy their company.

Bill found his calling in clinical psychology. He finished grad school at Texas Tech in Lubbock, Texas, and did his internship in Kansas City. While there, he saw a job posted on a bulletin board for a clinical psychologist at Highland Hospital in Asheville, NC. He came to Asheville for the interview and was taken to lunch on the Terrace of the Grove Park Inn. It was there that he fell in love with Asheville. Bill accepted the job offer and moved to Asheville with his cat Susie in January 1980.

Shortly after Bill moved to Asheville, he was in the cafeteria at Highland Hospital having lunch. A really cute lady (his future wife, Carol Anne Aenchbacher) sat down beside him, and as Bill would say, “the rest is history.”

Bill and Carol were married on May 22, 1982, in Asheville. Many of you who might be reading this probably attended the ceremony almost 44 years ago. Bill and I have treasured your friendships over the years.

Bill and Carol didn't have children, but discovered early on that they loved animals. Bill's cat, Susie, was the first. Over the years, they adopted and gave a good, loving home to more than 40 cats and dogs.

Bill loved to read and listen to music of any genre. He was never without a book in his hands! When he and Carol would travel, Bill would start weeks ahead of the trip, choosing which books he would take. Carol would then have to tell him to lighten the load and make room for some clothes!

Bill loved the life he had with Carol. He loved to sit on the deck with a book, a drink, and dogs sitting at his feet. He told Carol many times that this is what he had always dreamed about us having together.

Bill leaves behind a loving family who will always remember and think of him: his brother Father Thomas Barley of West Texas, and sister Ann Barley Rowell, her husband Art, and children Liz and Joe. Carol's family took Bill into their lives and enjoyed times together, visiting and traveling. One of Bill's favorite trips was to spend a week at Edisto Beach, SC, with Carol's family, where he could relax and read more books! He is loved by his other family, Richard Aenchbacher, Mary A. Summer, and Suellen A. Moseley, their spouses, nieces Jessica and Taylor, and grandnieces Rebecca, Riley, and Nora.

From his wife Carol: Bill, I miss you more than you know. This past Christmas, you gave me a beautiful plaque that says, "Blossom and Bloom" (I'm an avid gardener), and you told me this is what you wanted me to do when you're gone. We knew this would be our last Christmas.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Bill's honor can be made to Asheville Humane Society and Brother Wolf Animal Rescue.

Thank you all for being a part of our lives.

# Tribute Wall

SN

“ I’m a Psychologist in Asheville. I’m sitting here deeply touched by the words shared by his wife and reflections on Bills life and their life together.... I wanted to share something unique to me about Bill. We never knew each other well but weee in community together for a long time. Bill obviously knew many people and was a leader in our field, but he somehow had that unique ability to stop the world and give me his full attention every time we talked-always making it seem that I mattered and that he had plenty of time to connect-(despite being in high demand)! I imagine that same quality permeated all of his relationships and im sure you all will miss his deeply. Sending my deepest condolences and love to all of you who loved him.

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**Sandy Neues** - April 19 at 05:49 PM

TC

“ I’m deeply saddened to learn of Bill's passing. He was not only a trusted colleague, but a dear friend.

*Early in my career, his mentorship was invaluable. The last few years we established a monthly cadence of meeting for dinner. I really cherished that time with him.*

*He will be greatly missed. I am grateful to have known him, to have learned from him, and to have called him a friend.*

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**Trent Codd** - March 25 at 04:24 PM

NB

*Carol, I just found out about the passing of Dr. Barley. It breaks my heart to think that this wonderful man will no longer be with us. I would not be here today if it were not for the work that he done with me for so many years. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers. Nancy Baker.*

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**Nancy Baker** - April 15 at 07:07 PM

CW

“ Carol, I remember well when you were married. Highland Hospital conversations with Bill at lunch were always interesting and often funny. Such a sweet man. Sending loving thoughts to you. Carolyn Williams

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**Carolyn Williams** - March 15 at 05:19 PM

JS

“ Our short, in passing chats were always with a smile and kind words. He was gentle in his mannerisms. We'd talk about how his cats were doing. At his work place, he provided little houses, food and water for the feral kitties. I gladly support the AHS.

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**Jody Smith** - March 15 at 08:27 AM

SL

“ A loss too soon! I had the pleasure of working with Bill for several years at the Pisgah Institute. He was always supportive of my growth as a new clinician and helpful to share his thoughts and support. I will always treasure my association with him. Sending hugs and caring to his family and friends on this untimely loss. Sandra Layton

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**Sandra Layton** - March 15 at 07:58 AM

RH

“ So sorry to hear about Bill's passing. Though we resided in the same neighborhood, I regret we never got to know each other; however, the few times our paths crossed, I instinctively knew he was a very interesting, intelligent, and caring man with many interests. People like Bill leave a very positive mark on society. My condolences to Carol and to their extended family and friends.

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**Richard Hurley** - March 12 at 08:29 PM

KM

“ Thank you Carol for sharing, in spite of what he wanted. As you realized we all needed this. In regard to his love for books/reading, one of my fondest memories is talking to Bill on a Saturday evening many, many years ago at Books A Million, so that tells you how long ago that was! Bill was also a caring soul that gave you his undivided attention when you were in his presence. It was always an uplifting experience. We have lost a giant, but heaven has added another wonderful soul!



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**Karen Marcus** - March 12 at 12:34 PM

YF

*My husband and I were so sad to read of Bill's death. We each worked with Bill at different times at Highland Hospital. He was always kind, pleasant, sincere and willing to share his considerable knowledge with us. Thank you, Carol, for publishing his obituary. He'd have loved it. Our sincere condolences, Carol, to you and the extended family.*  
Yvonne Farnell  
Bob Smedley

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**Yvonne Farnell** - March 15 at 12:13 PM

BB

*So sorry to hear that Bill passed away. I remember when you first met at Highland Hospital. I last saw Bill at Walmart last year and we talked about memories at Highland Hospital. May Bill RIP. He will not be forgotten! Billy Bailey*

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**Billy Bailey** - March 15 at 07:34 PM

BB

*See  
my post above*

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**Billy Bailey** - March 15 at 07:35 PM

SB

*I met Bill when I interviewed for a job at Highland Hospital in 1986. We were on the same treatment team there and it was the beginning of a long partnership that continued until our respective retirements. As are many mental health clinicians, Bill was quiet and unassuming, but he had an outsized influence on the delivery of mental health care in this region. He introduced Dialectical Behavior Therapy, a treatment for borderline personality disorder, to this area. At the time it was a controversial approach, but became the standard of care. Our inpatient program invited Marsha Linehan to come for intensive training of our team and we were the first inpatient program to use DBT as the basis for the inpatient treatment of severe borderline personality disorder. Bill became a DBT trainer and taught workshops around the country. When Highland closed we started The Pisgah Institute along with several other former Highland Clinicians. Bill served as president of Pisgah for over 20 years. He provided mentorship for many clinicians, including me. He was a stalwart friend and colleague who will be missed by many.*

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**Steve Buie** - May 11 at 12:18 PM