



Roderick David Williams

March 2, 1949 - June 30, 2025

Williams, Roderick David “Dave”, 76 of Butte, Montana passed away unexpectedly June 30, 2025, while doing one of the many activities he enjoyed: riding his bike with his beloved dog, Jasper. Dave was born in Garden City, NY on March 2, 1949, the son of Carl H. Williams and Elizabeth (Beebe) Williams who predeceased him. Dave, named after his grandfather Roderick Beebe, grew up on the East Coast in Salisbury, CT. His father taught math and coached skiing, while his mother was the school librarian at Salisbury School. Dave graduated from Salisbury School in 1967 and furthered his education at Bates College, Lewiston, Maine where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology and was a member of the track team. He went on to earn his master’s degree in Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology from the University of Montana, Missoula, Montana, a state Dave fell in love with and never left. His impressive career spans over forty years working as a Geologist for the Bureau of Land Management specializing in Acid Rock Drainage: Predication and Characterization.

As a boy Dave, along with his brothers, Peter and Douglas and his cousins, spent summers on Lac Choiseul, Quebec, Canada where his family co-owned and operated a boy’s wilderness canoe camp, Camp Kapitachouane whose goal was to lead boys through the Canadian wilderness teaching them the basics of canoeing and camping but more importantly the value of teamwork. His parents instilled in Dave a love and respect for nature and all that the outdoors has to offer. These early lessons led Dave to a career in Geology.

Dave was such a generous man volunteering his time and donating money selflessly to numerous causes which he so passionately cared about. He served in various roles on several organizations, such as Board of Directors President of the Citizens Technical Environmental Committee (CTEC). Upon learning of Dave's passing Chief Executive J.P. Gallagher said: "David was more than a dedicated public servant; he was a tireless advocate for environmental stewardship. His legacy will live on in the cleaner streams, the restored landscapes, and the empowered citizens of Butte-Silver Bow." In 2021, Dave received the AIME Environmental Stewardship Distinguished Service Award.

Dave was a proud Democrat and an enthusiastic climate activist who walked the walk. Recently Dave was thrilled to trade in his Tesla, treating himself to the purchase of a Rivian truck. As an avid outdoorsman Dave loved climbing, hiking, biking, skiing, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. Surviving Dave are his brothers Peter B. Williams and his wife, Nancy Saunders of Newmarket, NH and Douglas G. and Jessica Williams of Warren, VT, and their families, his companion, Ginnie Talley of Helena, MT, his former wife, Elizabeth "Susie" Williams, her daughter, Shelly Cleverly, husband, Sean and their daughters, Emily Schneiter and Allyson Abell who he thought the world of, and by his former wife, Karen Williams, of Bozeman, MT. He will be sorely missed by one and all including his nieces and nephews: Helena Bruno, Jesse Williams, Chase Williams, Briggs Williams, Erik Williams, Shannon Calabro, Alexe Conlin, and their families, cousins, neighbors, colleagues, and friends whose love and friendship he dearly cherished. Dave hardly ever missed family events on the East Coast such as milestone birthdays, graduations, weddings, and funerals and spent considerable time with the family and for that we are all so grateful. We will all miss his Sunday night FaceTime calls.

The family would like to thank the first responders who assisted Dave and kept his dog safe until family members were able to arrive. Life is amazing and wonderful and full of adventures, Dave knew that. He lived life to the

fullest every day and was known for his considerate nature and cheerful outlook. He was a gentle man with a good heart and a kind soul, and he will never be forgotten by his family, friends, and his faithful companions, Jasper and Toko. In remembering Dave raise a glass of Labatt Bleu, spend time outdoors enjoying nature, just as he always did. Take a walk (preferably with a dog), go for a bike ride, hike a mountain, go for a paddle. To quote Dave's father's motto: "Ski fast, stand up, have fun."

Dave will be cremated, and his ashes spread in the places he loved most: Butte, Montana, Salisbury, CT, and Lac Choiseul, Quebec, Canada. A Celebration of Life and reception will be held Saturday, August 23rd at 11 am at Homestake Lodge. To donate in memory of Dave, visit www.milehighnordic.org.

Tu es mon compagnon de voyage!
Je veux mourir dans mon canot
Sur le tombeau, près du rivage,
Vous renverserez mon canot

When I must leave the great river
O bury me close to its wave
And let my canoe and my paddle
Be the only mark over my grave

~~From 'Mon Canoe d'écorce' ('My Bark Canoe') translated.

~~by Frank Oliver Call

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG **23**. 11:00 AM (MT)

Homestake Lodge
Homestake Pass
Butte, MT 59701

Tribute Wall

SD

“ I knew Dave through our mutual work on acid mine drainage from abandoned mine waste...and our love of dogs. I wondered why I hadn't had an email from Dave since his Cordoba trip. I learned so much from Dave--on climate change and geochemistry. I miss receiving photos of Jasper.

Sharon Fay Diehl - February 24 at 04:08 AM

SS

“ I am so sorry to hear this news. I worked with Dave on a few projects in Montana over the years and had great respect for his work and dedication to the field. I am sure he'll be greatly missed. My thoughts go out to his family and friends. Regards, Shannon Shaw

Shannon Shaw - July 14, 2025 at 03:53 PM

BH

“ I knew Dave when we were at the University of Montana Geology Department. Dave, Tony Qamar, and I climbed Granite Peak together, the highest point in Montana. My condolences to his family.

Bob Hammond - July 12, 2025 at 09:02 AM

JS

“ Dave was a great guy. We shared a few outdoor adventures, especially Cross Country Skiing the Rendezvous Race in West Yellowstone and Backpacking. These are wonderful memories, and I have a picture of us with our skis sitting on my desk. I really enjoyed working & recreating with Dave. Our condolences. Take care.

John & Vicki Sandford

John Sandford - July 10, 2025 at 10:46 AM

DC

“ I was always amazed at how often I would run into Dave and his dog on the trails around Butte. These encounters were always a highlight on my walks. I remember him as friendly, well-thought and thought of, even keeled (what else would you expect from a canoeist), dedicated, and self-less. I will miss my chance encounters with him. Doug Coe

Doug Coe - July 10, 2025 at 10:38 AM

WP

“ Sad news! Dave was great to work with, bright, pleasant, well informed, and caring about the big picture. A gentleman with energy and integrity. I was hoping to visit Dave in Butte to go biking when I retired..

Condolences to Dave's family and friends

Regards Bill Price, Smithers, British Columbia

William (Bill) Price - July 07, 2025 at 07:23 PM

AH

“ This is very sad for me to hear. I worked with him at the BLM in the 70's and 80's. Such a kind man. We had so much fun with the group we had back then. Prayers to his family and friends. He will be missed. 🙏🙏🙏 Arvella Holliday

Arvella Holliday - July 07, 2025 at 06:33 PM

CW

I am so very sad to read of Dave's passing. I also knew him at the Butte MT BLM office. Such a kind soul and true gentleman. I know you and Hirschenberger are up there somewhere together. Have a "soda" for all of us until we all meet again. RIP friend.
Charlene LeProwse Warren

Charlene Warren - July 08, 2025 at 01:14 AM

CC

I send a hug to all his loved ones, and the ones that cherished Dave, his joy, his community commitment- that is many of us. Our trails seem very empty right now, with the missing possibility of having Dave around the corner- a twinkle in his eyes with a smile to share. Sending you on Dave, with love and a deep thank you.

Camela Carstarphen - July 13, 2025 at 09:47 AM

PM

Live and condolences to Dave's family. He was a great addition to Butte's environmental and outdoor community, and he always stood up for truth and justice.

Pat Munday - July 15, 2025 at 05:24 PM

CL

Deepest sympathies to Dave's family. I enjoyed his friendly energy and enthusiasm in the Nordic ski club and yoga classes. He will be missed!

Carol Link - July 23, 2025 at 09:45 AM