

Dr. David Blean McDougal, Jr., b. 1/31/1923 in the First Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago, IL, passed away peacefully at his home in Santa Fe, NM on 28 February 2020. Dave had attended Princeton University as an undergraduate, obtained his M.D. from the University of Chicago, and interned at Johns Hopkins. He served as an Air Force medical officer during the Korean War and went on to become a prominent neurologist at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO, where he researched the metabolisms of, and electrochemical signals within, nerve cells.

Dave had an abiding, lifelong love of sailing, having learned as a young boy on Lakes Charlevoix and Michigan. He had a dry, roguish, sparkling wit often characterized by the banal proclamation of falsehoods designed to test one's logic, as well as the outlandish lyrical reimagination of old songs, of which he had a seemingly inexhaustible repertoire unravaged by his later Alzheimer's disease. But he was first and foremost a scientist and brought a zest for experimentation to all his other amateur hobbies: birdwatching, herpetology, woodworking, meteorology, even terraforming. His first-rate mind rather outstripped his capacity for handiwork, enthusiastic though it was, and he tended to leave in his wake a string of jury-rigged solutions to mechanical problems that often involved wire manipulated by needle-nose pliers and/or marline.

Dave brought all of this and much, much more to MacMahan when he and his wife, Barbara, decided to begin summering there in 1960. They did not purchase a cottage until 38 years later (Seabright, on the North End), when they finally conceded that the prices would most likely not eventually fall to more reasonable levels. They and their three children were integral parts of island life. Dave and Barbara's daughter, Madeleine, was married in St. Cuthbert's Chapel in 1972 and many of Barbara's needlepoint designs for the chapel's nature-inspired kneelers were stitched by Dave by an evening fire. Their son, David III, became another virtuosic sailor, rower, and longtime fixture of MacMahan summers.

Dave is survived by his beloved wife of 72 years, Barbara Price McDougal; his two daughters, Madeleine and Sarah; his daughter-in-law, Patricia; his grandchildren, Christopher ("Topher") and Rebecca; his great-grandchildren, Kellan, Aelis, Benjamin, and one forthcoming girl (!); and his brother, Alexander. He is predeceased by his son, David B. McDougal III and his youngest brother, Bill.