Dr. Dale Vance Holliday

Van was born in Ennis, TX on May 29, 1940. He was born to Francis Kevil Freeman and Miriam Lucille Jones. His father was a cowboy in his early life and later was an insurance appraiser for ranch properties. His mother was an artist, taught elocution, and home schooled her children for many years. He came from an interesting and oddly balanced lineage. He was related to both Doc Holliday (who was on the side of "the law" at the OK corral) as well as Johnny Ringo (who was on the "outlaw" side at the OK corral). Van grew up in the nearby small town of Palmer, TX (population 1,234). It was a place where you knew your neighbors... *all* of your neighbors.

Van didn't stay an only child for very long. His little sister Sharon was born when he was 4 years old. Sharon, who was known as Sherrie, followed Van everywhere in their early years. Van was a great big brother and an active little boy. He liked to swim and fish down at the local fishing hole. Perhaps this is where he first developed his love of aquatic creatures. Sherrie told us of his early fascination with science and his love of building things. One of his early projects was a solar-powered motor which he mounted on a chair. His giving heart and ability to inspire people to great heights was also evident early on. On one occasion he built a large kite which was such a success that when his sister helped him launch it, she took to the skies. He "accidentally" flew his sister as well as the kite.

He acquired a taste for international travel early on. When he was only 4, his family moved to Mexico. His father had been sent by the government to help eradicate hoof and mouth disease in the cattle of the area. Two or three years later the family returned to Palmer, TX. Van was initially home schooled by his mother. Later while he was attending public school, he schooled others. In particular, he tutored a mentally disabled boy named Douglas. This is where he learned to patiently teach others who were on a different intellectual plane, another skill that would serve him his entire life.

Things took a serious turn when he was in his early teens. When he was 12 years old, his mother took him to the doctor for an ear infection. The doctor diagnosed a broken back. He ended up in a body cast. Van did not remember how or when he was injured. His stoic nature and ability to persevere despite pain, served him too well throughout his life.

During his teens he continued to have problems with his back which would afflict him his entire life. He was diagnosed with severe scoliosis. His spine began to curve during his adolescence, and it never stopped. He developed a C curve as well as an S curve. He underwent many painful treatments, procedures, and surgeries throughout his life. The scoliosis compromised many aspects of his health. When he was a young man of 19, he nearly died when his appendix burst. Although he had complained of pain, the doctors were unable to determine what was wrong. But the doctors were not to blame. His appendix was not where it was supposed to be. The curving of his body shifted his appendix to his back. Later, it was clear that his scoliosis compromised his heart and his lungs and eventually contributed to his death.

Van realized early on that he would never be able to develop his body to achieve his life goals; he would have to develop his mind. Fortunately, he had an incredible mind.

Van attended High School in a nearby town, Waxahachie, TX where he played saxophone in the High School marching band. He used to joke that they had to march behind the horses. His senior year he transferred to Waco High School. Little did he know the woman he would someday marry was living in the same town. He graduated High School when he was only 16 years old. He began college by attending summer school at Baylor University when he was only 17. He then transferred to the University of Texas, Austin.

While in school in Austin, he met the woman he would share his life with. He was 19 or 20, and she was only 17. They met on a blind date. They were to go to a game with another couple. The other young man had a date but no car. Van had a car but no date. Van, always the researcher, decided to meet this young lady before the official date. He called and asked this young woman, Mary Elizabeth Freeman, who went by Beth, to meet him for coffee. She told him she didn't drink coffee. He generously said she could have anything she wanted, *even* a milkshake. When he picked her up for the "pre date", Beth realized she didn't even know his name...was it Larry, Lance, Vance? They met, and things were never the same for either of them. Within a few months, Beth knew that he was "the one". They were married in a Methodist ceremony on June 1, 1962. It was a loving marriage that would last for 47 years. They were a couple for nearly 50 years.

After they married, they planned to decide which church they would attend. To help them decide, they planned to alternate, to attend the Methodist church one week, and the Baptist church the next. After only a few weeks, Van proclaimed he had been a Baptist all his life and he couldn't be anything *but* Baptist. And so, it was settled.

The first year of their marriage, they lived in a garage apartment. Then they rented an unfurnished house for the great sum of $60 per month. Van and Beth both completed college at the University of Texas. Van earned his degree in Physics in 1961 and Beth her degree in Education in 1963. Van then continued his studies at the University of Texas. He earned his first advanced degree, a Master of Science in Nuclear Physics in 1965.

Van joined Tracor June 4, 1962 while still working on his Master's Degree. One of his first research topics in acoustics was transient flow in natural gas pipelines, which lead to publication of a textbook, a standard reference in the field to this day. Funding for the book was tight. Beth recalls walking in a big circle inside the garage, putting the book together page by page, to prepare it for the binder.

Their first child, a little girl, Kathryn Anne was born in November 1964. In 1965 Van and Beth left Austin with their 10 month old baby in tow, to develop the first Tracor facility in San Diego, California. It was a one man office, and the family only planned to stay for a year. They stayed a *bit* longer.

The family rented a house on Lamont Street in Crown Point for the first year. Then they purchased their first and only home in the community of Clairemont because the mortgage was so much cheaper than renting.

While working in San Diego, Van became intrigued by the ocean and what it contained. Recognizing the promise of ocean research, he began his doctoral studies in Applied Physics at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). While working hard at his studies and research, his second child, another little girl, Karen Elizabeth, was born in August 1968. He received his doctorate in 1972 and officially became Doc Holliday.

He worked very hard. There were many late nights at the office and at home. But he loved his work and he wanted to share it with others. Karen may be the only child who brought jars of krill to show and tell in elementary school without blinking.

His third child, yet *another*, little girl, was born in December 1974. After naming their first two children with the letter K, Van and Beth decided they couldn't have another K name. After all it just wouldn't be right if their kids were the K K K. So, they decided on Mary Christine. Little did they realize they had avoided one problem only to fall into another. One evening when Christy was nearly 2 years old, sometime between Christmas and her birthday, she was toddling around the church. She started heading toward Vi Williamson who exclaimed "well, here comes little Merry Christmas Holliday". Well, that said it all.

Van's scientific career was long and distinguished. He worked in theoretical and applied science for ~~64~~ 46 years (1962-2007) through Tracor and later BAE Systems. And he loved every moment of it. He was a true pioneer in his field. The theoretical discoveries and innovative applications he made in bioacoustical science continues to impact the advancement of science, the understanding of our world and the conservation of our planet.

His work took him to unusual places including; an igloo on an ice floe north of Point Barrow, Alaska, meeting the president of Pakistan, and scientific conferences across the world; Peru, Finland, and many others. He was invited to the USSR, but the State Department suggested that he "regretfully decline".

He had over 4 decades of field experience in oceanography and maintained active research and scientific publication through his last days. He used high technology instrumentation to measure, study and monitor life at different trophic levels in marine ecosystems. He pioneered various acoustical methods that are still used internationally to assess and study oceanic plankton, nekton, and marine mammals. He worked in extreme environments, ranging from the temperate ocean off the coast of California, to the frozen Arctic seas. His research has been sponsored by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Department of Defense (DOD), National Science Foundation (NSF), state governments, and various industrial groups.

He mentored many young scientists who make real contributions to our world. He was an adjunct professor at not one, but two universities. He became adjunct professor of Fisheries Oceanography at the University of Massachusetts in Dartmouth in 2005 and a Senior Marie Research Scientist at the University of Rhode Island in 2007.

He has been recognized for his significant contributions through several distinguished and rare honors including; a Silver Medal in Acoustical Oceanography (2004), "for contributions to the study of marine life, from plankton to whales", the Meritorious Public Service Award by the Department of the Navy, Chief of Naval Research (2002), a seat on the editorial board of a fundamental research journal, Limnology and Oceanography: Methods (2002), he was honored with the Steinbach Visiting Scholar at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (Summer, 1987), he was a longtime member of the US Delegation to the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) (1987), finally, he had an entire sea mount named after him, Mount Holliday, located in the Bering Sea.

He left a Legacy.

He was a man of great faith, a devoted husband, and a loving father and grandfather.

He is survived by his wife Beth, his 3 children and their spouses Kathy & Joe Bento, Karen & Jim Lindquist and Christy & Corey Carroll. He can be heard in the laughter of his 5 grandchildren, Hannah, Sarah, & Joseph Bento and Caleb and Corbin Carroll. He is now in Heaven rejoicing with our Lord, visiting with his parents and little sister, and playing with his granddaughter Kaitlyn Lindquist and his favorite cat, Fiziwig.

Van Entering Heaven
"Hello Lord, I'm finally here!"

In Loving Memory

Dr. Dale Vance Holliday

May 29, 1940-February 4, 2010