

Phillip Edward McClean was born in Pierce, Nebraska, on November 25, 1949, to Edward and Alyce McClean, the eldest of their five children. As a child, he moved frequently with his family due to his father's military career.

Phil pursued his love of learning with determination. He studied at Denver Community College and Metropolitan State College before earning his Ph.D. from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO. His postdoctoral work took him to the University of Virginia and the University of Missouri-Columbia, before he accepted a faculty position at North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND, in November 1985. Phil proudly served as a faculty member at NDSU for nearly four decades.

In August 1978, Phil married the love of his life, Renee, in Denver, Colorado. Together they built a life centered around family, work, and the many joys they shared over the next 47 years.

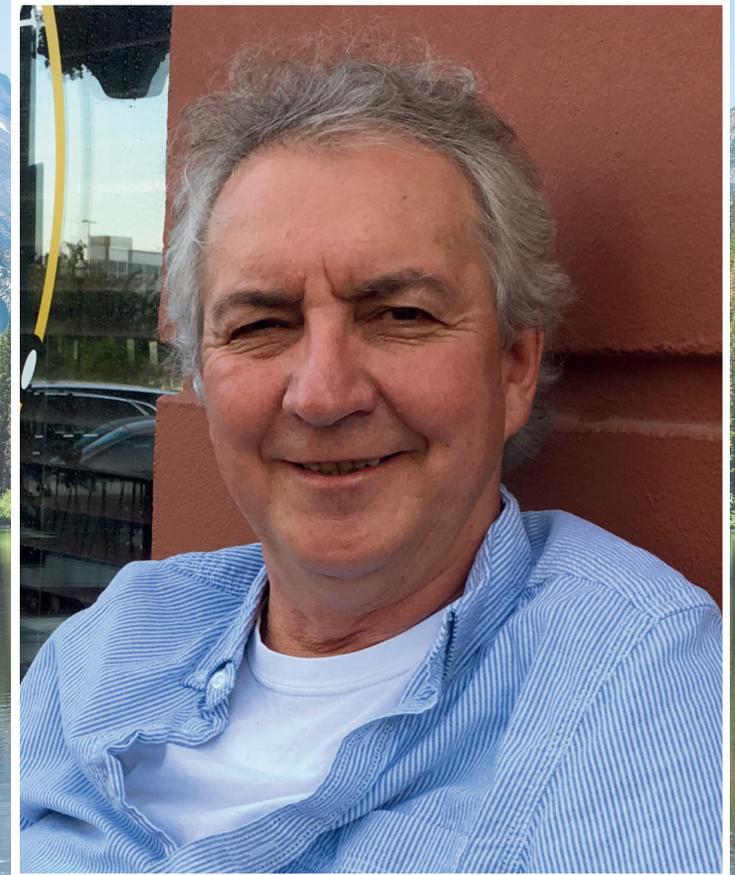
Throughout his career, Phil became respected worldwide for his pioneering research in the common bean. He traveled extensively, collaborating with scientists across the globe, helping to advance agricultural science and improve food security. His work built a legacy that will continue to benefit generations to come.

Outside of his academic career, Phil's passions reflected his curious and energetic spirit. He loved music, was a devoted fan of the Denver Nuggets, the Los Angeles Dodgers, and Arsenal Football Club, and especially enjoyed watching Premier League soccer with Renee. He also loved cycling, carefully tracking the miles he logged on his rides.

Above all, Phil treasured time with his family, and nothing brought him more joy than his grandchildren. He relished being "Grandpa" to Sloane, Henry, and Ada, and they were the true light of his life.

Phil is survived by his wife, Renee; his children, Kevin (Lisa) and Cara (Cole); his beloved grandchildren, Sloane, Henry, and Ada; and his sister, Marion (Duane). He was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, Fred, Mike, and Pat; and his half-brother, Bob.

In Loving Memory



Phillip Edward McClean

November 25, 1949 - September 11, 2025

Rainbow Connection

Why are there so many songs about rainbows
And what's on the other side?
Rainbows are visions, but only illusions
And rainbows have nothing to hide

So we've been told, and some choose to believe it
I know they're wrong, wait and see
Someday we'll find it, the rainbow connection
The lovers, the dreamers, and me

Who said that every wish would be heard and answered
When wished on the morning star?
Somebody thought of that, and someone believed it
Look what it's done so far

What's so amazing that keeps us stargazing
And what do we think we might see?
Someday we'll find it, the rainbow connection
The lovers, the dreamers, and me

All of us under its spell
We know that it's probably magic
Have you been half asleep, and have you heard voices?
I've heard them calling my name
Is this the sweet sound that calls the young sailors?
The voice might be one and the same

I've heard it too many times to ignore it
It's something that I'm supposed to be

Someday we'll find it, the rainbow connection
The lovers, the dreamers, and me
La-da-da-de-da-da-do
La-da-da-da-da-de-da-do

Remembering

Phil McClean

November 25, 1949 - September 11, 2025

Memorial Service

Friday, September 26, 2025 - 2:00 PM
Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home
Fargo, North Dakota

Celebrant

Pat Ellison

Order of Service

Opening	
Eulogy	Cara Christenson
Sharing of Memories	Rich Horsley Elias Elias Juan Osorno
Time of Sharing	
Song Introduction	Jane Kippley
Closing	The Lord's Prayer

Interment

(At a later date)
Riverside Cemetery
Fargo, North Dakota

All are invited to a reception following the service.

