

BLAIR FILLER, MD



October 25, 1927 – April 29, 2023

Celebration of life: May 6, 2023



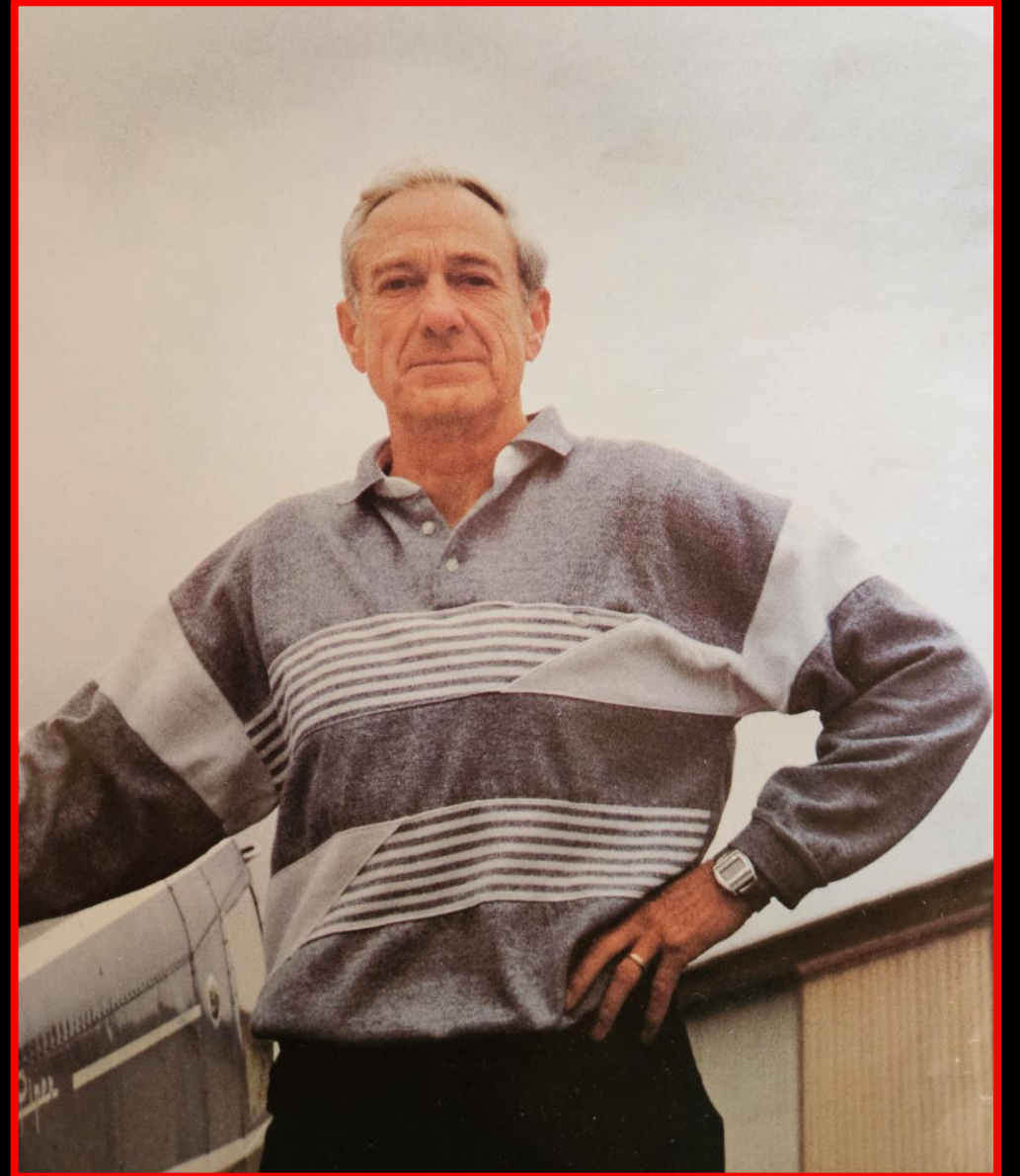
Dodie Filler / 67 years
Four children
Silly Papa



Enlisted in navy
Wanted service & excitement
Pealed onions and potatoes



Live life to the fullest
Never stop learning





Athletic
Started running in his 40s
Running logs for 50 years
Over 50 marathons
Motivated many colleagues to run
Organized COA 5K fun run for many years



Avid skier Mammoth Heliskiing Canadian Rockies



Backpacking in the Sierras

Canoing in Alasaka

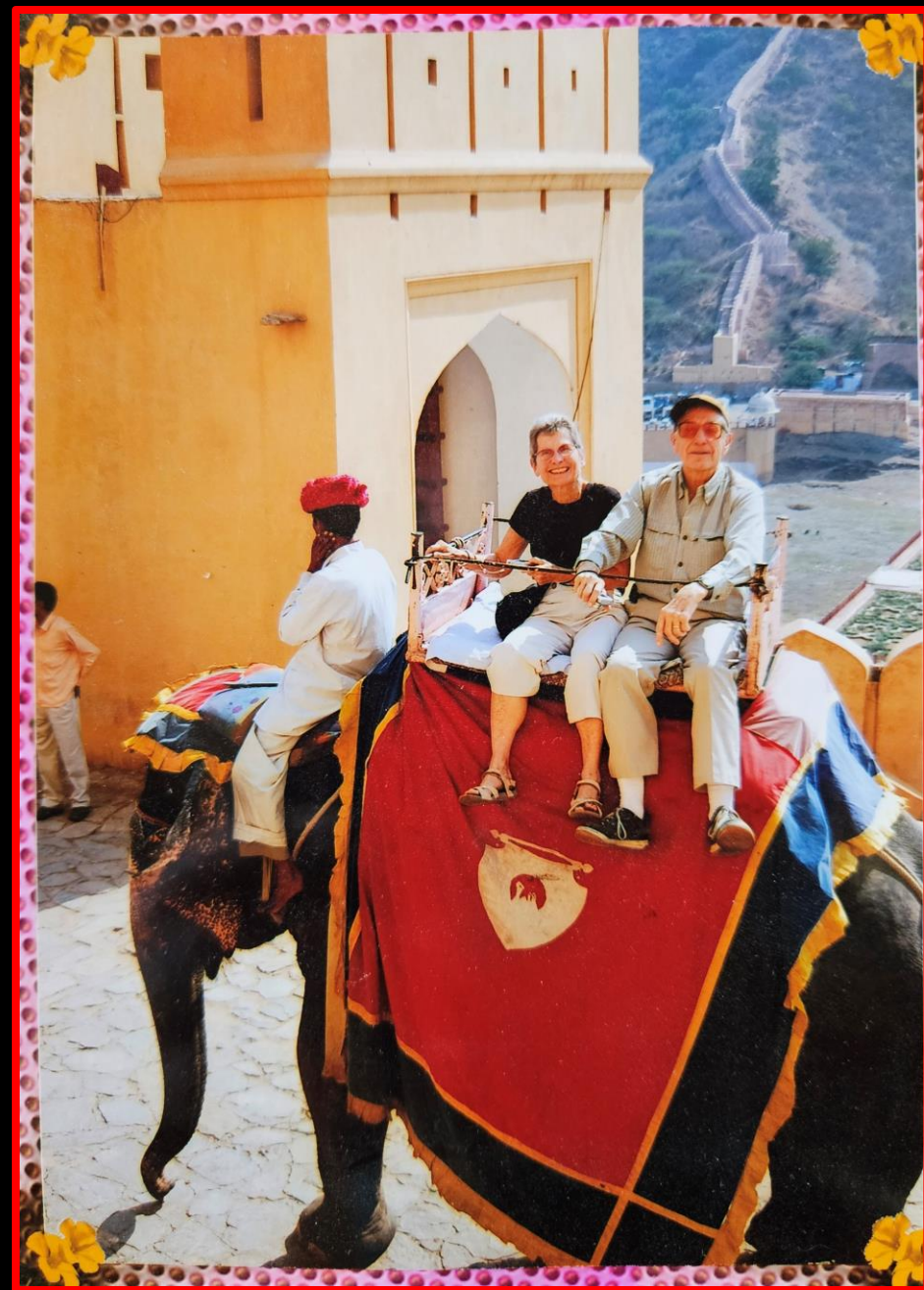
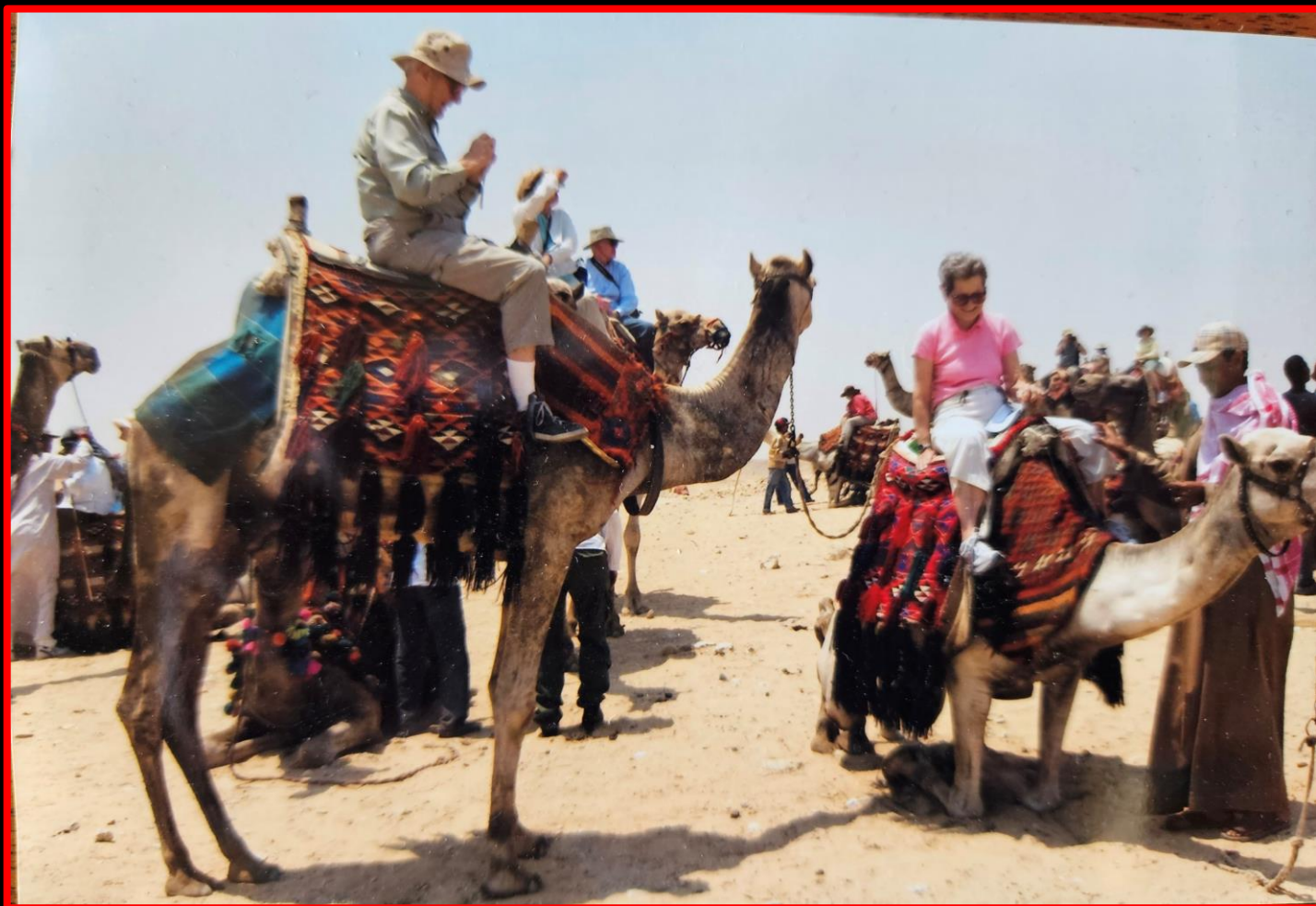
Scuba diving in Baja Peninsula



Kilimanjaro in his 70s



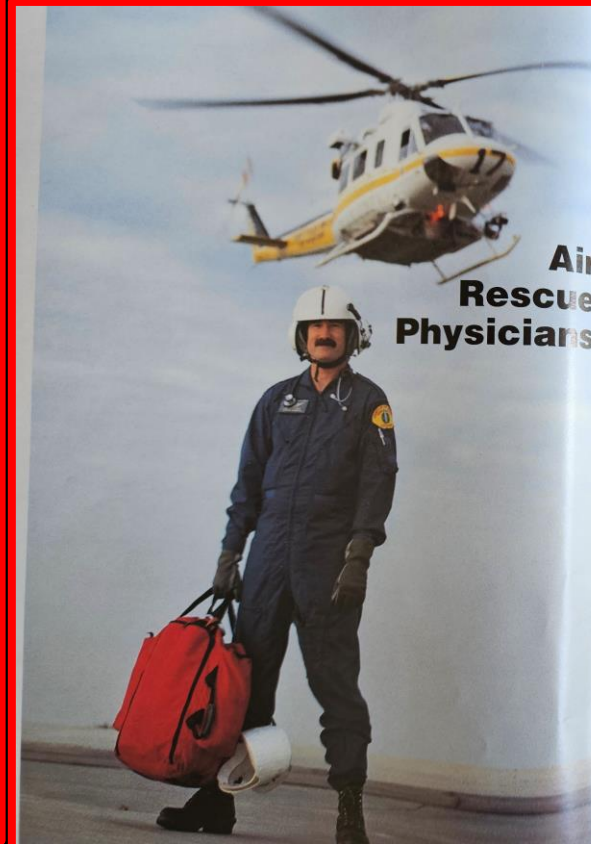
Travel Over 100 countries



Alaska
Mammoth
Florida
New York
Cozumel



Sheriff search & rescue



For these physicians, the thrill of riding with the Sheriff's or Fire Department and delivering emergency healthcare where it's needed is just what the doctor ordered.

By Tom Jennings
Photos by Tom Thompson

The 38-year-old man is near panic. His face is pale. His breathing is labored. He is strapped to a mesh-metal stretcher. His gaze darts erratically from one strange face, to another, to the misty interior of the Sikorsky helicopter. An oxygen mask is strapped to his face. An oxygen bottle and heart monitor lie between his legs. An intravenous bag, dripping a steady stream of morphine into his arm, dangles wildly from a hook on the ceiling of the helicopter.

The airship's blades slowly begin to move with a deliberate "whoosh, whoosh, whoosh." The interior of the craft vibrates in a rocking motion at first, increasing to a quivering hum. The noise of the rotors increases, becoming more intense, nearly deafening. A pair of headphones is placed over the man's ears to protect his hearing. As the craft lifts awkwardly into the blue sky, it kicks up a cloud of blinding dust. The man, frightened by the jolt of the lift-off, tries to sit up, his arms pushing against the straps. "Am I going to be all right?" he screams.

The helicopter points its nose down and moves forward.

Franklin Pratt MD, left, is outfitted and ready for action, while Blair Filler MD, below, has already found it.

ward. A doctor bends over the man, takes his hand, lifts an earphone from the man's head and says, "You're going to be fine, we're going to take care of you." The man lies back down, not letting go of the doctor's hand. He nervously stares out the aircraft's open door to the landscape drifting away below. This is not Vietnam. This is a Saturday afternoon in the Angeles National Forest.

Every weekend, Los Angeles County Medical Association doctors take to the skies in L.A. County Sheriff and Fire rescue helicopters, pulling people out of some very bizarre and life-threatening situations. The rescues range from simple cardiac arrests, to hikers who have fallen down mountain sides, to traffic accidents with multiple traumas, to scuba divers with the bends at Catalina Island.

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Tom Jennings is a Los Angeles area freelance writer.



Orthopaedic over-achiever
Officer in more orthopaedic organizations
than anyone else



COA founding member
Past president COA
Long term board member
Hired Diane







Orthopaedic Research
& Education Foundation

AAOS

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

WILLIAM W. TIPTON JR., M.D.



LEADERSHIP
AWARD

Presented to

Blair C. Filler, M.D.

Outstanding
in Recognition of
Outstanding
Leadership
in
Orthopaedics

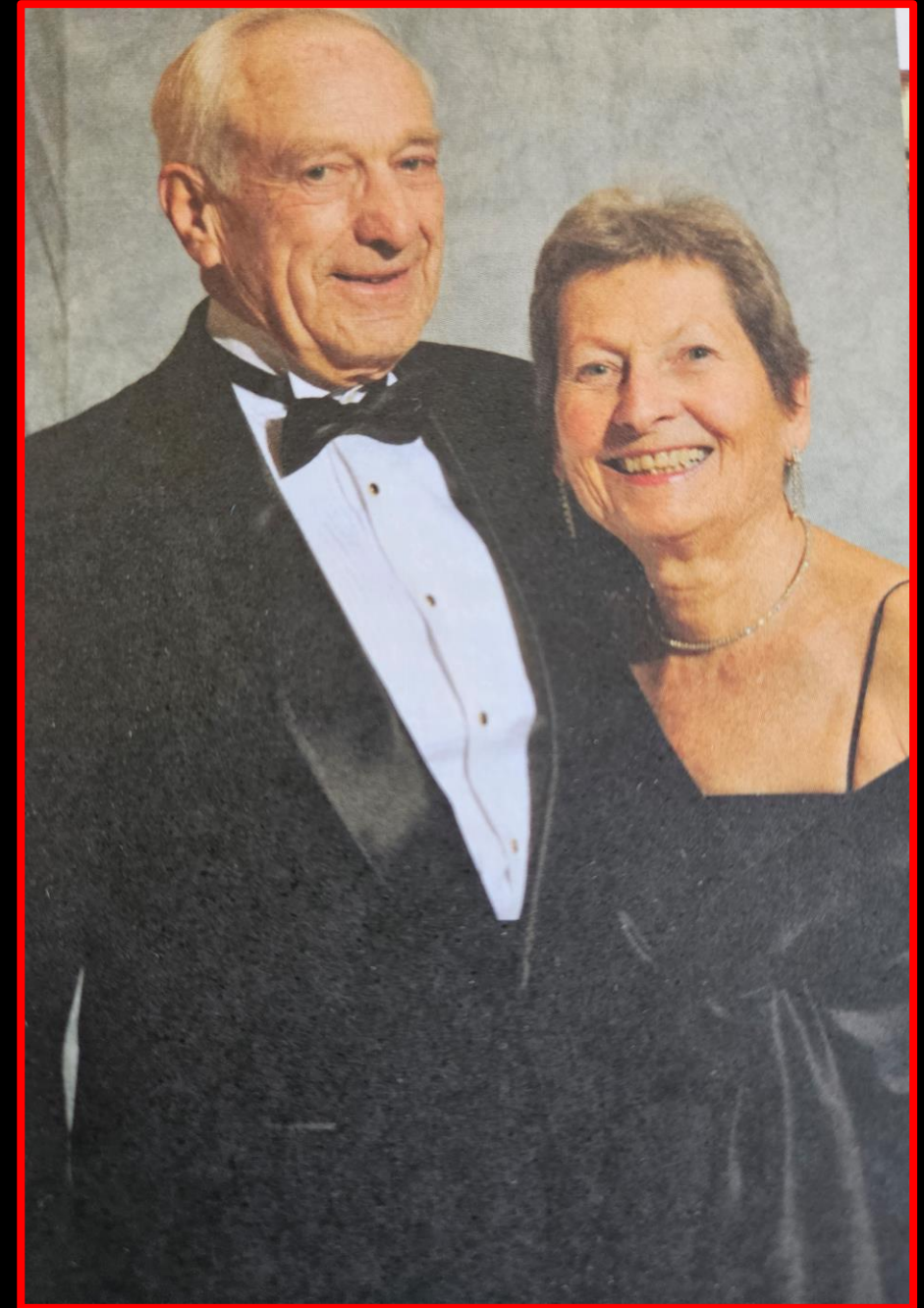
2009



*In Appreciation of
30 Years of Service
1974-2004*

BLAIR C. FILLER, M.D.
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

Die at home
Carried out feet first



“The purpose of life is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

