



## **Celebrating 48 Years of Excellence: The Retirement of Carl Sullivan, CO**

After an extraordinary 48-year career in the Orthotics & Prosthetics profession, Carl Sullivan, CO, is retiring—leaving behind a legacy of craftsmanship, dedication, and unmatched expertise.

Carl is a native of Tennessee and, to this day, proudly wears orange whenever the Tennessee Volunteers take the field. His journey into O&P began at Fillauer, where he quite literally walked in, applied for a job, and stayed for the next 11 years. During his time at Fillauer, Carl worked under Dick Gormanson and Carlton Fillauer, CPO, learning the foundations of the trade from some of the industry's most respected names.

Carl's natural talent with fabrication was shaped long before his O&P career began. His father owned a metal shop, and Carl grew up grinding, bending, and finishing metal—skills that would later define his career. One story Carl often shares from his Fillauer days says it all: Dick Gormanson once handed him a bucket of metal when Carl first started and told him to grind and finish all of it. Carl returned in record time. Doubting it was possible, Dick asked to see Carl's hands, expecting cuts and scrapes. Carl's hands were spotless. When Dick inspected the metal and found it perfectly finished, he simply shook his head in disbelief.

While at Fillauer, Carl also began assisting Troy Davis with patient fittings, giving him his first exposure to the patient-care side of orthotics—an experience that would shape the rest of his career.

In February of 1988, Carl relocated to St. Louis and joined Orthotic & Prosthetic Lab, Inc. As Carl tells it, O&P Lab came looking for him and hired him as Orthotic Supervisor, overseeing the Orthotic Fabrication Department. He would go on to spend the next 37 years with the company.

When Carl started at O&P Lab, most braces were still metal, and plastic orthoses were just beginning to emerge. Carl bent and fabricated metal braces, built joints, and handled complex designs, while Charlie Taggart, CO, focused on the leatherwork. Carl frequently

worked weekends just to keep up with the workload, driven by pride in his work and commitment to patients.

Later, Carl earned his ABC certification as a Certified Orthotist through the special qualifications pathway, alongside many seasoned professionals of his era. He ultimately worked out of the Main Lab in Webster Groves, Missouri, where he became the company's quality control expert. Carl checked every job that came in, double-checked L-codes, ordered all metal joints and bars for fabrication, and reviewed each device to ensure it was correct. He performed these duties every morning and late afternoon—while still seeing patients in the middle of the day.

Throughout the state—and far beyond—Carl became known as the “go-to” expert for KAFOs and RGOs. To many, he was simply the best in Missouri, if not the entire country.

Carl's knowledge, work ethic, and willingness to share his expertise have left a lasting mark on Orthotic & Prosthetic Lab and on the profession as a whole. He has mentored countless colleagues and improved the lives of thousands of patients through his skill and care.

We will truly miss Carl, his craftsmanship, and his steady presence. We wish him nothing but happiness, relaxation, and well-earned enjoyment in his retirement.

Thank you, Carl, for 37 remarkable years.

Tom Malone  
President  
Orthotic & Prosthetic Lab, Inc.