



Dr. Thomas Jefferson Saddoris II

June 21, 1942 - November 26, 2023

Thomas J. Saddoris II MD passed away on Sunday, November 26, 2023. He was 81.

Dr. Saddoris opened his solo Internal Medicine practice at Adventist Medical Center in September of 1976. He reluctantly retired in January of 2023 due to his declining health.

Dr. Saddoris was born in Boone, Iowa, on June 21, 1942 to Thomas J. Saddoris and Reo Jung Saddoris. The family moved to Franklin, Pennsylvania after World War II for his father's career. Thomas was a good student and graduated at the top of his class in high school. He went to Bucknell University on scholarship for his freshman year and enjoyed a busy college social life as a member of Delta Upsilon fraternity. He transferred to Grove City College his second year where he majored in pre medicine.

Tom met his wife to be, Rae Belle Burch, who was majoring in elementary education. They married after graduating in 1964 and moved to Philadelphia where Tom attended Temple University School of Medicine. Rae Belle taught school in the city system, and also attended night classes at Temple University. During his junior year, Tom was approached by the U.S. Public Health Service to commit to becoming a physician in that branch of the military. Upon graduating in 1968, Tom and Rae Belle moved to Seattle, where Tom began

serving his internship at the US Public Health Service hospital.

In October of 1969, Tom and Rae Belle welcomed a baby girl, Mary Beth, into their family. Just a few short months later, in January of 1970, Tom received an official communication from Washington, D.C., informing him that he had been assigned to the US Coast Guard Cutter Sherman for a year long tour of duty in the waters off South Vietnam. He was ordered to report to duty in Boston in two weeks. As is so often the case with the military, he had to hurry up and then wait. He spent two months in Boston waiting for the ship to be readied for the tour and set sail on Good Friday. The majority of the 10 months on board the Sherman were spent in the Mekong River delta area where he and every member of the crew were daily exposed to the effects of Agent Orange. Of course, they were unaware of the deleterious effects of the chemical until later.

Tom received the Navy Achievement Medal for Meritorious Service in combat for his efforts to combat a cholera outbreak on land during his last two days in the Mekong Delta area. He and his corpsman inoculated over 700 Vietnamese people at great risk to themselves as many of the people there were Viet Kong.

After completing his military service, Tom continued his education with a one year Family Medicine residency and a two year Internal Medicine residency followed by a two year fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh program in Clinical Immunology and Allergy and Rheumatology. During this period Tom and Rae Belle were happy to welcome their second child, Thomas, to complete their family.

Having enjoyed the beauty and expansiveness of Seattle during his internship there, the family decided to move back to the Northwest to begin Tom's medical career. Portland beckoned as a smaller version of Seattle with all the

benefits they hoped to offer to their children and enjoy themselves.

Tom's primary interest was always medicine. He was known for not giving up until he knew what the problem was and how to solve it. His staff referred to him as Dr. Colombo because he always went after that one last answer for his patients. However he also realized a dream of his to have a small farm and relive the memories of visiting his grandparents in Iowa as a child. Tom and Rae Belle purchased a small piece of land and began to accumulate animals: a couple of horses, some dairy goats, a flock of laying hens, a pregnant cat, and of course, a dog. Old MacDonald and his wife enjoyed the rural life in spite of the work, and the children thrived although they may not have appreciated the work to the same degree their parents did. However, they were heard to tell friends on occasion that they had painted that fence, or milked those goats.

He did not want to retire, but the effects of Agent Orange caught up with him, as with many thousands of other veterans. His health began to decline to the point that he could no longer serve his patients. He leaves behind his wife of 59 years, Rae Belle, his daughter, Mary Beth, and his son, Thomas. He also leaves his brothers Charles, of West Chester, Pa., and Mark of Cape Coral, Fl.

His desire was to take his place at Willamette National Cemetery along with other veterans and his family was pleased to be able to grant his final wish.

Please check back for updated service information.

Cemetery Details

Willamette National Cemetery

11800 SE Mt Scott Blvd
Portland, OR 97086

Previous Events

Committal Service w/ Military Honors

JAN 5. 2:30 PM (PT)

Willamette National Cemetery
11800 SE Mt Scott Blvd
Portland, OR 97086

Tribute Wall

MS

“ Hi, Brother Tom. Two years ago today you passed away. You are sadly missed. Love, Brother Mark

Mark Saddoris - November 26, 2025 at 10:26 AM

MS

“ Happy Veterans Day brother Tom. You served your country very well. Wish you were here on earth to celebrate. But I know you are celebrating in heaven. Love and miss you, brother Mark

Mark Saddoris - November 11, 2025 at 06:38 AM

MS

“ Happy Birthday Brother Tom. Missing you. Love, brother Mark.

Mark Saddoris - June 21, 2025 at 07:48 AM

MR

“ Dr. Saddoris was my physician for 35 years. Over those years I had the best care, some of the best non-medical conversations (what wine goes well with venison was a favorite) and enjoyed discussions with him and Rae Belle about everything and anything. The current field of physicians I've dealt with since Tom's retirement will never hold a candle to his abilities. Having just heard of his passing, I send condolences to his family and to those who love him.

Michael Riley - December 15, 2024 at 07:49 PM

MS

“ Hi Brother. One year ago you left us to be in a better place. Your family misses you dearly. Take care. Love, brother Mark

Mark Saddoris - November 26, 2024 at 05:08 PM

RS

Thank you, Mark. Hard to believe that it has been a full year. You are right that he is missed. A sad day. RB

Rae Belle Sadoris - November 26, 2024 at 08:18 PM



“ *Tom was one of my husband David 'Dave' Richardson's friends from Franklin, PA. I was just going through Dave's emails and found the notification sent about Tom. Dave is in memory care. My sincere condolences to Rae Bell and all of Tom's family and friends. Linda Richardson*



Linda Richardson - March 15, 2024 at 12:40 PM

RS

Thank you, Linda, for your kind words about Tom. I am sorry to hear that Dave is in memory care. How ironic for him having been such an excellent speaker for so many years. I know it must be difficult for you. Thank you for taking the time to send your condolences.

RAE B SADDORIS - March 20, 2024 at 12:03 AM

CR

“ *I met Tom in first grade in Franklin, PA. He and I were friends along with Penny Haylett and Chuck Calhoon.. Penny has passed, and I have lost track of Chuck.. I am glad to be brought up to date on Tom's life. I have fond memories of our childhood. Carol Burkhardt Richardson*

Carol Richardson - February 10, 2024 at 10:01 AM

RS

Thank you, Carol, for your remembrances. I heard many a tale about Chucky Calhoon and the shenanigans in Franklin. It was a great place to be a child!

RAE B SADDORIS - March 01, 2024 at 12:18 PM

KO

“ Today I feel like I’ve lost my Dr. friend for the second time. First when the letter came telling that he would have to give up his practice, and today when Rae Belle called and broke the news that he had passed. He was a wonderful old time Dr. who always made me feel safe. I loved to hear his stories, listen to his detailed explanations and advice, feel his sincere caring, and yes, he answered all my questions. Rae Belle you were married to one of the best! I’m reminded of a quote from Gibran, “We weep for that which has been our delight.” Kerin Ostrom

Kerin Ostrom - January 25, 2024 at 02:32 AM

CS

“ Dr Sadorris was my doctor for 25 years. He was my friend and a great Doctor. His wife, Raebell, managed his office and him. They were like family to me and my husband George. Dr. wouldn’t give up even though his health declined. He loved his job. Our heart and love to the family. Carol and George Smith

Carol Smith - January 12, 2024 at 06:44 PM

CH

“ Here are a few quotes from my brother Tom's namesake Thomas Jefferson that I find relevant to his life:

"I have often thought that nothing would do more extensive good at small expense than the establishment of a small circulating library in every county, to consist of a few well-chosen books, to be lent to the people of the country under regulations as would secure their safe return in due time." (Tom did like books, and more books !)

"By making this wine known to the public, I have rendered my country as great a service as if I had enabled it to pay back the national debt." (He always had a new wine tout for me.)

"Never trouble another for what you can do yourself" (Self-reliance was in his DNA)

"I had rather be shut up in a very modest cottage, with my books, my family, and a few old friends, dining on simple bacon, and letting the world roll on as it liked, than to occupy the most splendid post which any human power can give." (Dining on salmon, not bacon.)

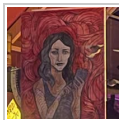
Rest in Peace, Tom

Charlie - January 06, 2024 at 02:10 PM

RS

Charlie: Those are so perfect and I am sure he is pleased that you knew him so well! Thank you for sharing ! Rae Belle

RAE B SADDORIS - January 07, 2024 at 12:03 AM



Beautiful! Thank you, Uncle Charlie!

Mary Beth Saddoris - January 07, 2024 at 01:03 AM

LY

“ Oh Doctor Sadoris... You were my doctor and mentor for 30 years. The knowledge, kindness and support you offered over the many years is a treasure I will always hold dear. I miss you. My thoughts are with you Rae Belle and I'm so glad I got to know you both -
Letha Young

Letha Young - January 05, 2024 at 03:15 PM

RS

Dear Letha: Thank you so much for your very kind thoughts! We both considered you a patient and a friend. Fondly, Rae Belle

RAE B SADDORIS - January 07, 2024 at 12:00 AM

MS

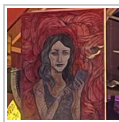
“ Hello Brother. I have numerous memories with you to reflect upon. 1525 Liberty, 440 Moreland dr., Mother sent you to pick me up at the end of my paper route. You boiled the cat at the high school. Going fishing with Dad in Canada. You graduating from Grove City college. Helped you move into apartment on 16th street. Visiting you in Philadelphia and you delivered good humor ice cream, driving a taxi, graduating from Temple University, going boating in Pensacola, Visiting you in Pittsburgh, helping you clean up after apt. fire. Riding with you in your corvette to Portland and getting lost. Praying for you while you served in the Coast Guard in Vietnam. You giving me a "prick" test for allergies in my arm. Spending numerous times with you at Riverview ranch, fishing, boating, deer hunting. Living in your guest house, and doing chores. Meeting up with you at the Pomona horse races, attending the Breeders Cup with you in California, Sharing a good fresh salmon dinner, talking on the phone numerous times about family, doctoring, getting advice. Much much more but never a dull moment, some sad moments, lots of happy moments. I am devastated with your passing, wish I could have been there to comfort you, tell you how much I love you, and revisit our memories. You will be greatly missed, and hope to see you again. God bless you, I love you and miss you. Take care. Your brother Mark.

Mark Sadoris - January 05, 2024 at 02:46 PM

RS

Mark it is hard for me to respond to your wonderful memories because my eyes are filled with tears. I, too, wish you could have been here, but the good memories are the best to remember. Thank you so much.
Rae Belle

RAE B SADDORIS - January 07, 2024 at 12:07 AM



Ah, so many memories. Thank you, Uncle Mark, for sharing and being part of the story.

Mary Beth Sadoris - January 07, 2024 at 01:06 AM

RS

“ *What though the radiance which was once so bright, be now forever taken from my sight, though nothing can bring back the hour of splendor in the grass, of glory in the flower, we will grieve not, rather find strength in what remains behind. William Wordsworth*

RAE B SADDORIS - December 31, 2023 at 01:56 AM

RS

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



rae belle saddoris - December 29, 2023 at 01:32 PM

RS

a Happy Christmas memory !

rae belle saddoris - December 29, 2023 at 08:44 PM

SR

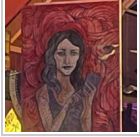
“ *For over 30 years Dr. Saddoris was our doctor. So much appreciated was the time and concern he gave us - even calling during evening hours to check in. I am so sorry that because of his faithful service, he had to retire early. He is greatly missed. Sending love to Rae Belle and family.*

Shirley Reynolds - December 26, 2023 at 02:33 PM

RS

Thank you so much, Shirley!

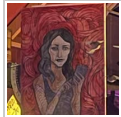
rae belle saddoris - December 26, 2023 at 03:11 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mary Beth Saddoris - December 24, 2023 at 06:08 PM



Happy times with the jolly elf himself.

Mary Beth Saddoris - January 07, 2024 at 01:07 AM



“ *Dr Saddoris, when you had to retire, we were so sad, We felt like we were family after going to you for 35 years. Thank you for your wonderful service to us both. Orval and Louise Schoen*

Della Louise Schoen - December 24, 2023 at 03:10 PM



Thank you so much;, Louise and Orval. It means a lot to me to hear from you.

rae belle saddoris - December 26, 2023 at 03:09 PM



“ *Dr. SADDORIS WAS THE BEST DOCTOR I EVER HAD. HE WAS VERY CARING AND VERY THROUGH. HE TOOK HIS TIME WITH EACH PATIENT ASSURING THEY UNDERSTOOD EVERYTHING. AGAIN, BEST DOCTOR I EVER HAD. REST IN PEACE. MY CONDOLENCES TO RAE BELL AND HIS FAMILY.*

Beverly Witherite - December 24, 2023 at 03:10 PM

RS

Thank you very much for your kind words, Bev.

rae belle saddoris - December 26, 2023 at 03:13 PM

BE

I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Dr. Saddoris. He was always very kind and caring and extremely thorough! I loved the small office he had with a small staff which included his wife Rae Belle. My heartfelt prayers go out to her and the whole family!

Bonnie Eichentopf

Bonnie Eichentopf - December 30, 2023 at 01:03 AM

RS

Thank you, Bonnie! So kind of you to comment. Rae Belle

rae belle saddoris - December 30, 2023 at 09:52 PM

RS

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



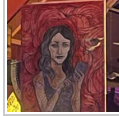
Rae Belle Saddoris - December 22, 2023 at 07:14 PM

CS

“ Cooling off on the Clackamas. Summer 1984.



Charlie Saddoris - December 19, 2023 at 01:18 AM



Love these! Thank you, Unca Chunk.

Mary Beth Saddoris - December 24, 2023 at 06:04 PM



“ *Doctor Saddoris..You served your Country and your patients well. When you retired and being a patient for nearly 20 years I found it difficult to find a doctor I was comfortable with. In the early years I would become impatient waiting to be seen but soon discovered why that was...you cared about your patients and would spend as much time as it took to help them. As a Vietnam veteran having another Vietnam veteran as my doctor was an honor. Rest in Peace Doctor, your war is over.*



Don Cohee - December 16, 2023 at 04:59 PM



Amazing tribute Don. Tom's brother says thank you.

Mark - December 17, 2023 at 09:25 PM



“ *3 files added to the album Photo album*



rae belle saddoris - December 16, 2023 at 12:03 AM

MS

“ 1 file added to the album Photo album



Mark Saddoris - December 15, 2023 at 02:02 PM

RS

Dr. Saddoris, inland Vietnam, in primitive hut holding free clinic for Vietnamese people 1970

Rae Belle Saddoris - December 16, 2023 at 05:22 AM

RS

“ 3 files added to the album Photo album



RAE B SADDORIS - December 13, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Hillside Chapel - December 11, 2023 at 07:16 PM