



## Dr. Thomas Lynch Murphy Jr.

May 3, 1947 - June 29, 2017

If you knew my father you would know that no words could adequately describe his gentle intelligence, his brilliant scientific mind, or his calm demeanor. Dad was completely dedicated to being the best doctor possible. He would study every night.

Besides working hard, Dad also knew how to play hard. We went on countless backpacking trips, hikes, adventures abroad, and even took a canoe trip to the Everglades. He was a genius at showing up at the right time, dashing into the theatre to catch my sister's part of the ballet or fixing his patient brown eyes in approval when I scored a soccer goal. My parents were also always the first on the dance floor in his never ending quest to keep a dance from the 60's called the "shotgun" alive. He lived a life of such integrity that we were never ashamed to call him father.

Thomas Lynch Murphy, Jr. was born in Boston, Massachusetts on May 3rd, 1947. His family eventually settled in Salisbury, NC. After graduating Boydon High School, he attended Chapel Hill as a Morehead Scholar. It was there he met his wife Nancy Pierce Clark. He then went on to attend Harvard Medical School, residency at the Cleveland Clinic, and taught as a professor at the University of Oklahoma. It was that point that his twin children were born and the family decided to move back to North Carolina to Gastonia, where he practiced Internal Medicine for more than 30 years.

Dr. Murphy is survived by his wife, Nan Murphy of Asheville, NC. His sister Katharine Rawling of Phoenix, AZ. His brother Charlie Murphy of Tallahassee, FL. His daughter Dargan Gilmore and her husband Will Gilmore of Raleigh, NC and their three children, William, Téa, and Pierce. His son Thomas Murphy, his wife Amanda Murphy, and their three children Tav, Charlie, and Eloise of Asheville, NC.

A lot more could be said about his accomplishments, faith, and generosity but my dad was also thrifty and would be counting every word.

A service of remembrance will be held at St. Marks, Gastonia at 3 pm on Sunday, July 16th. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in his honor to St. Marks, Gastonia, All Souls Cathedral of Asheville or Mountain True of Asheville.

## Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### **Memorial Service**

JUL 16. 3:00 PM (ET)

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
258 W. Franklin Blvd.  
Gastonia, NC 28052

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Thomas Lynch Murphy Jr.*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Doctor Tom was the best physician I've ever had. Always on top of what's new and so very caring. When he retired I cried. I'm crying now. Praying for his family and close friends. He was my Doctor for over 30 years. See you on Sunday.*



**Dara Morikawa** - July 13, 2017 at 08:04 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. May God comfort each of the family in a warm blanket of his loving arms and bring you peace. Dr. Tom Murphy was such a caring and loving doctor for his patients and co-workers. I was so blessed to know him through working at GMH. My heart is broken for his family. May God wipe all tears from your eyes remembering Gods promise one day we shall all be together in Heaven.*

*Janis Conard*

**Janis Conard** - July 13, 2017 at 12:03 AM

CP

“ Oh Dr. Murphy! Such an amazing Doctor. He was my personal doctor for over 30 years, plus I got to work with him at the hospital. Yeah, his handwriting was terrible but he always made sure he went over each order before he left. Not only was he my doctor but also my parents. He was always honest, straightforward and hopeful. He was one of the few doctors that walked the talk and lived by his suggestions to his pTients. If he told me once , he told me 1000 times " cave man diet" and walk, then you will be healthy. RIP my favorite Doctor.



cathy L Payne - July 12, 2017 at 10:34 AM

JH

*Such a wonderful doctor. Very intelligent man. What a loss for us.*

Judy Hartman - July 12, 2017 at 04:01 PM

JA

*What an awesome Dr. Tom Murphy was. How fortunate his patient, colleagues and friends were to share him here in Gaston County. I was honored to work with him and saw his skill, competence and compassion with his patients and families as well as his respect and comorotory with the nursing staff. What a kind and gifted physician and friend.*

Judy Abernathy - July 12, 2017 at 05:39 PM

CB

*I got the privilege of working with him in the office.. not only one of the best but just an outstanding all around person-- so grounded....*

cathy baker - July 12, 2017 at 07:31 PM

KC

*One of the most intelligent and compassionate physicians I have ever worked with. So admired and respected by his patients, colleagues and nurses. Dr Murphy you definitely left your mark in Gaston County and will be greatly missed!*

Katie Champion - July 12, 2017 at 11:57 PM

GM

“ *Such a great loss. Dr Murphy was my doctor from the time he came to Gastonia till he retired. We spend a lot of years together. He was the best.. I am deeply sorry for your loss.*

Gay Moore - July 11, 2017 at 10:04 AM

DB

“ *One of the greatest physicians I ever worked with. I learned so much working with him in my Nursing career..Only wish we could clone him.*

Debbie Beard - July 11, 2017 at 08:33 AM

VI

“ *May the family of Dr Murphy find peace. I worked as a nurse with Dr. Murphy at Gaston Memorial and he was a wonderful fine Doctor. He touched many people and very well respected. Handwriting was the worst!! but a great Doctor!!!. Vickie Knight*

vicke - July 10, 2017 at 09:15 PM

DB

*One of a kind..Not enough space to describe this awesome physician who taught me so much in my nursing career as a nurse..only wish we could clone him..Debbie Beard RN*

Debbie Beard - July 11, 2017 at 08:28 AM

MH

*One of my favorite physicians. Worked with him for years at Gaston Memorial. He always spoke with the nurse caring for his patients. Polite, professional, kind and super smart. They don't make them like him and he will be missed. Maureen Halek, retired Critical Care Assistant Manager and ICU RN*

Maureen Halek - July 11, 2017 at 09:00 AM



*So many fond memories at Gaston Memorial practicing in ICU and the clinic. Truly a fine man and a brilliant physician. He will be missed.*  
*Louise Thompson NP-C*

**louise Thompson** - July 11, 2017 at 12:16 PM



*Not only did I work with such an amazing doctor at Gaston Memorial Hospital, I was also blessed that he was my grandmother's doctor. When she was dying at home, Dr. Murphy gave me his cell phone number and backline to the office for when I needed him. My grandmothers oxygen tanks were running for the amount she needed to keep her comfortable. He called the oxygen and demanded they bring out more and give us a bipap to help her. When all of that failed, he talked with my grandfather and myself on the phone and told us it was time. He made arrangements and met us at the hospital with her so he could personally make sure she was comfortable. He will be greatly missed by everyone. He definitely left an imprint on my heart and those he came in contact with. His family and this world has lost a great and wonderful man that can not be replaced. He was definitely one of a kind. Rest comfortably in peace Dr. Murphy. You deserve it!*

**Misty Dean** - July 11, 2017 at 05:00 PM



*RIP Dr. Murphy, he was a great teacher and physician. He taught me so much about caring for ventilator patients. Although his handwriting was "unique" he always put his patients first. He will definitely be missed. Thoughts and prayers for the Murphy family.*

**Martha Eddings** - July 12, 2017 at 09:10 AM



*One of the best physicians I ever worked with in critical care at Gaston Memorial. He will truly be missed.*

**Diana Brewer** - July 12, 2017 at 09:50 PM

CA

“ *Dr. Murphy was a kind, compassionate and understanding doctor, who my husband and I also considered a friend for I believe at least 25 years. He always took time to talk with us no matter how busy. His smile brought joy to the sick and weary. We were shocked to hear of his passing. There are no words that can help relieve your sorrow, but knowing how much he loved his family will hopefully give you comfort and peace in the sweet memories no one can take away. He is a shining star in Heaven whom one day we will see again!*



*Love and heartfelt prayers,  
Lloyd & Charlene Allmond*

---

**Charlene Allmond** - July 09, 2017 at 03:43 PM

TP

“ *Terry Peterson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Thomas Lynch Murphy Jr.*



---

**Terry Peterson** - July 08, 2017 at 11:11 AM

TP

*To say I was honored to work for this sweet, sweet man would be an understatement. His devotion to his profession was a beautiful thing to witness, as was his devotion to his family! There was always a twinkle in his eyes when he spoke of his wife, Nan and his children, Thomas and Dargan. I felt in my heart, than when his first grandchild was born, that he found something he was even more in awe of than medicine.. He adored those babies and even though we were so sad when he retired, we were happy he would be making memories with them. My heart is broken that that time was cut short. I feel truly blessed that our paths crossed. Nan, Thomas and Dargan, you are and will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers!!*

---

**Terry Peterson** - July 08, 2017 at 11:23 AM



Judith  
Florian

*I met Dr. Thomas Murphy when I traveled to Gastonia N.C. to continue my nursing career. There are so many things you can say about this great man and doctor and friend. Gentle, kind, brilliant, funny, dedicated. and an angel among us. He taught me so much. My deepest condolences to Nan, Thomas & family, and Dargon & family. Sending much love and prayers at this most difficult time.*  
*Judith Florian RN*

Judith Florian - July 12, 2017 at 08:20 PM

PB

“*Dr. Murphy was one of the best and true to his profession. He took care of his patients. He was my doctor from the time he first came to Gastonia until he retired. My husband and I as well as all of his family, patients and friends will grieve his loss.*

Peggy Savage Baumgardner - July 07, 2017 at 05:27 PM

CS

“*Carol Shved lit a candle in memory of Dr. Thomas Lynch Murphy Jr.*




Carol Shved - July 07, 2017 at 09:37 AM

CS

*My prayers are with the Murphy family. I was honored to work with Dr. Murphy for a short time before his retirement. He was a caring, compassionate doctor. I will never forget him*

Carol Shved - July 07, 2017 at 09:41 AM

 Dottie  
Scher

“ He always treated everyone with respect and kindness. But I'll never forget the day I came home from lunch and found Vicki and Mom sitting in the living room, both of them looking very serious. They wouldn't tell me what they were talking about but Vick followed me into the kitchen and whispered, "Mom is having chest pains but she won't let me call anybody." (This was probably 8 or 9 years before she passed away from a cardiac arrest in 200.) I snuck out the back door and ran up to your house (right next door) because I saw Dr. Murphy pull into his driveway to eat lunch just a few minutes before. Nan met me at the backdoor and I told Dr. Murphy what was going on - he said, "Get her in the car and meet me at the Emergency Room. Tell her I said she has to come." So I ran back down to our house with those instructions from the good doctor. Oh, she got mad at me. But she went, and he met us there. He checked her out, kept her overnight, gave her several tests. It turned out she had been moving furniture by herself and over exerted herself, or that's what she told us. When she died years later, I was the one who found her. Dr. Murphy sat with me and told me, in his calm quiet way, "Dottie, even if you had been standing right beside her, there was nothing you could have done to save her. Her heart stopped. She had a defective valve in her heart. She was probably born with it." I asked when did they find it. He said, "The day you made her come to the ER." She made him promise not to tell us. He kept his promise until after she was gone and I was struggling with her death. Our families intertwined, laughed together, and spent those first crazy days after Hugo together. I told him when he retired if I didn't like the care I received from my "new" doctor, I knew where he lived. He laughed but I meant it. He was a rare person and a wonderful doctor. We miss having you next door. Love to you all, always.



*Dottie Zeigler Scher, Louis Scher, Becca Scher Turner, Al Scher, Branson E. "Butch" Zeigler (Fannie Zeigler, Vicki Zeigler Freeman - members of my family also treated by the good doctor who are now deceased)*

**Dottie Scher** - July 05, 2017 at 01:56 PM

AS

“ *My deepest condolences to the family of Dr. Tom Murphy. He was such a wonderful man and a healing physician who practiced medicine on such a high level that only a few have attained. He has been missed by his former patients, friends and community. I can honestly and confidently say that he was one of the best doctors I have ever had and I treasure the time that I knew him. My thoughts and prayers are with Nan and the rest of his family during this time of their loss.*

---

**Ann D Siva** - July 05, 2017 at 09:58 AM

JS

“ *David and I send our sincere regrets in the loss of such a great man, father, husband and doctor. He cared for my mother and for us in a kind, knowledgeable and candid way. We will miss his friendship and his humor. May many happy memories heal the broken hearts of Nan and his family.*

---

**Jennie Stultz** - July 02, 2017 at 01:50 PM