



## Dr. Thomas Herbert Gootee

February 26, 2013

Thomas Herbert Gootee, M.D., of Jasper, IN, began his eternal life on February 26, 2013. Tom was the sixth of nine children born to Estella (Fanning) and Leo M. Gootee, DVM. He was born on September 6, 1926, on the family farm on US 231 just north of Loogootee, IN. He loved farming and related well to farmers all of his life. Eight of Leo's and Stella's children survived to adulthood; two became medical doctors, two became priests, two became nuns, and three became nurses (his sister Patricia is both a nurse and a nun in Peru, with the Medical Mission Sisters of Philadelphia, PA). His early experiences assisting his father with farm animals and his fix-it and construction skills around the farm were a wonderful foundation for his future skills. Tom's college studies at Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO, were interrupted by WWII. He served in the US Army in the Pacific and became a Staff Sergeant before receiving his honorable discharge in the Fall of 1946. After completing his undergraduate degree, Tom entered the School of Medicine at Saint Louis University. He met Anne M. Dreifke, also from a large Catholic family, and they married in 1949. Tom graduated from medical school in 1952 and moved his young (and growing) family to Jasper in 1953 after completing his residency. Dr. Tom moved back to the area in response to requests from the Little Company of Mary for staff at Memorial Hospital and from Saint Meinrad Archabbey for a dedicated medical doctor. Dr. Tom was the primary physician for the Archabbey for 25 years. The LCM sisters at Memorial Hospital, the OSB monks and brothers at Saint Meinrad, the OSB

sisters at Ferdinand, and the Sisters of Providence in Jasper were incredibly supportive and appreciative of Dr. Tom over the years. His service to the religious community was reflective of his approach to medicine. Medicine was his vocation and his life, not his job. He always put his patients before himself. He always wore a suit and tie when at the office and hospital to outwardly show his respect for his patients. Dr. Tom's first office was over Wilson's Drug Store at the corner of Newton and Sixth Streets. He and a handful of other doctors utilized the new Memorial Hospital in Jasper and started its legacy of a wonderful, caring medical facility. For many years, Dr. Tom knew the name of every employee at the hospital. In 1960, brothers Dr. Tom and Dr. Francis H. Gootee built their medical clinic at the corner of Fifth and Clay Streets in Jasper, at which time Dr. Francis relocated from Loogootee to Jasper. Dr. Tom offered his medical skills to the community from that office for 45 of his 54 years of medical practice. Dr. Tom and Dr. Francis, and their patients, were blessed with fabulous nurses, receptionists and office administrators over the years. Very special professional and personal thanks to nurses Carol DeKemper and Bonnie Schwenk, receptionist Mary Denning, and administrator Kate Jahn for making Dr. Tom's last years of practice and his retirement at age 79 a success. In the early days, Dr. Tom was a full-service medical doctor. He had additional office hours after supper, made thousands of house calls, interwove surgeries and emergency room calls in between office hours, and stopped counting after delivering over 5,000 babies. We remember the evening he came home with a beaming face, having just delivered "a baby of a baby I delivered!" Dr. Tom served as Dubois County Medical Officer and in various roles on the hospital staff; he was one of the early members of the American Academy of Family Physicians and a member of many other professional organizations. He was well regarded for his diagnostic and clinical skills. Dr. Tom was a member of the American Legion, the Knights of Columbus, the Lions Club, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He gave selfless service to his patients and the community while being a wonderful husband and father. He loved his family, his medical colleagues, his

patients, his community, and his country. When he had time from work, he loved to travel (especially driving out West), be outdoors, farm, fish and hunt. He was a man of many interests who lived a full and blessed life. He touched thousands of lives in a caring and professional manner. His easy-going manner, listening skills, sense of humor, and compassion came naturally and were genuine. After his retirement, nothing gave him more pleasure than to be greeted by his patients around town. The comments, compliments, and shared memories absolutely made his day. Thank you all! Dr. Tom is survived by his wife of 64 years, Anne (Dreifke) Gootee, and his seven children: Elizabeth Lexleigh of St Louis, MO; Margaret (James) Carriere of Covington, LA; Jane (Stanley) Nelson of Charlevoix, MI; Anne Heyneker of Winston-Salem, NC; Thomas P. Gootee of Jasper; James (Ting) Gootee of Indianapolis; and Ellen Tamura of Bloomington. He is also blessed with special relationships with many whom he considered part of the family, especially Dr. Martha Yearsley and John Schmitt. Dr. Tom is also survived by his brothers, Dr. Francis H. (Patricia) Gootee and Father Paul R. Gootee, SVD, and his sisters, Agnes C. James, RN, Theresa M. Jatkowski, RN, and Sister Patricia C. Gootee, RN, and many wonderful nieces and nephews. He has eight grandchildren, Kate Colletta (Margaret), Eric Heyneker (Anne), Ashley, Lindsay and Tom J. Gootee (Tom P.), Max Gootee (Jim) and Kaz and Erika Tamura (Ellen), and two great-grandchildren, Ella Green (Ashley) and Carter Williams (Lindsay), with a third great-grandchild, Thomas L. Colletta, III (Kate) due on February 28th. Funeral services for Thomas Herbert Gootee, M.D. will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday (March 2, 2013) at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Jasper, with burial to follow in Fairview Cemetery. The VFW Post 673 will conduct military gravesite rites. Friends may call from 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., on Friday (March 1, 2013) at the Becher-Kluesner Downtown Chapel in Jasper. The family thanks both the Critical Care and Skilled Caring staffs at Memorial Hospital for their recent compassionate care of Dr. Tom. If you wish, donations may be made to Jasper Memorial Hospital, or St. Joseph

Church, Jasper, IN, or Saint Meinrad Archabbey, Saint Meinrad, IN. In lieu of flowers, please hug your doctor.

# Tribute Wall

MW

“ *love you!! grampa*

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**Madelyn williams** - February 25, 2025 at 02:29 PM



“ *Dr. Thomas Herbert Gootee*

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January 01, 2023 at 10:54 AM

RS

“ *What can be said of a man who was there for you in their hour of need. I mourn the loss of a truly good man. Be proud of the man he was.*

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**renae schmidt** - April 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BN

“ *God Bless your family Dr. Tom, you will be missed. My daughter is one of the 5,000 babies that you delivered I will always have you in my heart and prayers. God speed peace to your family, Brenda Nixon and Michelle Artmeier*

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**Brenda Nixon** - March 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TN

“ The Newton family is saddened of the loss of Dr. Tom. I remember when I was first pregnant with our son, Adam, Tim and I "bumped in" to Dr. Thom at Memorial Hospital and he asked about our approaching bundle of joy. We told him that it might be twins, but the Doctor in Louisville could not get us in for another month for an ultrasound. He looked at us and said, "Well, with a twinkle in his eye, I'm your regular Doctor and I'm ordering you to have an ultrasound and I'm sure it will be much sooner than a month. A month is much too long to wait for news like that." H wrote us an order for an ultrasound and we found out the next week that Adam was only a single not a double. After that day, I told my husband that I was not having our baby in Louisville, Dr. Tom was going to deliver our child as he delivered him. So, Dr. Tom delivered Tim in January of 1957 and delivered our Adam on a snowy February morning in 1986. I will remember Dr. Tom for the kind, sweet caring man that he was and for that smile on his face and that twinkle in his eye in the hallway of Jasper Memorial Hospital. Tim and Sherry Newton

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**Tim and Sherry Newton** - March 04, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Wish I could be there to say goodbye. Please give my best to all the family. I love you and miss you, Uncle Tom. I will always remember your smile.

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**Marita** - March 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ To the Family of Dr. Gootee,  
I am a friend of daughter Anne Heyneker in Winston-Salem. I had  
the pleasure of meeting Dr. Gootee once during a visit he and Mrs.  
Gootee made to NC. What a remarkable man and what a lovely  
memorial. My thoughts are with you and your extended family.  
Sincerely, Mary Lea Bradford

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**Mary Lea Bradford** - March 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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I am a friend of daughter Anne Heyneker in Winston-Salem. I had  
the pleasure of meeting Dr. Gootee once during a visit he and Mrs.  
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memorial. My thoughts are with you and your extended family.  
Sincerely, Mary Lea Bradford

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**Mary Lea Bradford** - March 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ Dear Stan, Jane and Family; Our deepest and heartfelt sympathies  
go to you during this very difficult time. Though we never had the  
pleasure of meeting Dr. Gootee, just knowing you is proof that he  
was an amazing man and a wonderful father. May he rest in peace.  
Glenn and Julie Morrison

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**Glenn and Julie Morrison** - March 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ In sorrow, we mourn those lost. In gratitude, we embrace those  
around us. In sympathy, we reach out to those who grieve.

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**Marvin&Candy Purdue** - March 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ *What a beautiful obituary. Dr Tom was a great man to work with as well as have for a family physician. He will be missed but remembered by many. My condolences.*

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**Gail Fuhrman** - March 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *Dear Anne and Family - We certainly cherish your friendship and values and it's easy to see where they are rooted - your father, Dr. Tom. What a great write-up and tribute to a man that meant so much to so many! Of course he will be missed, but the many lives he has touched and healed will live on for many years to come. Our prayers and thoughts are with you during this time and please let us know if you need anything from your friends and neighbors in Winston-Salem. Our love and deepest sympathy, The Hickman family.*

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**Beth, Eddy and Harrison Hickman** - March 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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**Beth, Eddy and Harrison Hickman** - March 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ Dr. Tom delivered my sister and I and took care of my mother and father their entire life. He was a great doctor and he will be missed greatly.

*Michael Lannon and family Florida*

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**Michael Lannon** - February 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ Dear Anne and Family,  
What a beautiful tribute to such a wonderful man! Dr. Tom was our family physician and he was a kind and caring individual. May his memory be eternal. With Love and Prayers...

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**Maureen Lythgoe** - February 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Dear Family of Dr. Tom Gootie, You have my families sincerest condolences on the loss of Dr. Tom! Dr. Tom was my families Doctor through some difficult times when we lost our mother and father, he was both of their attending physician. There was so much that Dr Tom did for our mother and father, that was much over and above what any family could of ever expected from their families physician, and we revered him for all of the help and assistance he rendered to my family during some difficult times. We knew that if anyone ever deserves to go be in Heaven with our Lord there, Dr. Tom, he will be there! We would not know how to say more, in honor of a man, who has our highest respect possible for Dr. Tom Gootie! Our Sincere Condolences to all of the Family! Dennis Drake & Linda Drake, David Drake & Chris Drake, Claudia Fisher and children

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**Dennis Drake** - February 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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**Dennis Drake** - February 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Dear Gootee Family,  
We want to express our deepest sympathy in your great loss. Dr. Tom was a gentle kind man who touched so many in his life in many special ways. It was an honor & privilege to have worked for he and Dr. Francis @ the Gootee Clinic. May your hearts soon be filled with wonderful memories of joyful times together as you celebrate a life well-lived.

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**Steve & Gerri (Eckerle) Schnaus Sarasota, FL** - February 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

VS

“ Our deepest and heartfelt sympathies to your family during this difficult time. Please let us know if we can be of service.

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**Vincennes University Alumni and Foundation Staff** - February 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ *The Allen family sends condolences to all. He was our family doctor until he retired. We always appreciated his care and concern, especially when we called him away from his family. It is ironic that he passed away as Henrietta(John's mother) has also passed this week. They shared the same birthday, September 6th. The John Allen Family*

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**Camilla and John Allen** - February 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ *Thoughts and prayers with you during this time. Dr. Tom was our family doctor until his retirement. We always appreciated the many visits and times he helped our family above and beyond. He will always be remembered fondly. The Russell Jaent Family*

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**Russell and Toby Jaent** - February 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ *Anne & Family - We are saddened by the loss of our long-time physician, Dr. Gootie. Tom was an excellent doctor, but more important, he was a great person. You just don't find doctors "for life" anymore. I have a lot of good memories of your family. You were always great neighbors. Jasper has lost yet another professional. You all are in our thoughts & prayers, Paul, Sue, Thomas & Olivia Habig*

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**Mr. & Mrs. Paul A. Habig** - February 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ *This is a lovely and moving obituary. My heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.*

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**bonnie gay** - February 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ *Dr. Thomas Gootee was a wonderful man. I credit him with saving my life. I will never forget how he and his office staff were always willing to help and get me in whenever I needed to be seen. He was a great physician and all-around person.*

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**Cheryl Knies** - February 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *My sincere sympathies to the entire Gootee family for your huge loss. I have so many fond memories of time spent at your house while growing up. Still dear friends with Ellen to this day. Dr Gootee's was sure a life lived fully, productively, and joyfully. Thinking of you all and sending my love.*

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**Dee Bloom** - February 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM