



## Frank T. Shafer

September 6, 1928 - December 4, 2023

Frank T Shafer, MD lived 95 love filled years. He drew his last breath on Monday, December 4, 2023 with his wife of 49 years, Beth Shafer, and daughter Elizabeth Shafer McClelland at his side.

He was born in Salisbury, NC on September 6, 1928. He graduated from Boyden High School in 1943 at 15 years old. He attended Wake Forest University, class of 1947. He received his medical degree at Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston Salem in 1951. He served as a physician in the Army and then completed post-graduate training in Internal Medicine at Medical College of Virginia.

He served Rowan County as physician for over 50 years. At the beginning of his career he made home visits to patients. He established a private practice on Barker Street across from Rowan Regional Hospital (now Novant), providing round the clock care for his patients in his office and in the hospital. He had boundless energy and served as physician for numerous institutions in the county including Catawba College, Livingstone College, Rowan Correctional Facility, and supported nursing homes and rehab facilities in the area. He also served as chief of staff for the hospital.

He married his wife, Beth, after 10 years of dating on December 28, 1974. They shared a deep and steadfast love. He was a loving father to Elizabeth

and grandfather to Connor and Andrew McClelland. Outside of his practice, he enjoyed reading, music, golf, travel, and walking. He visited all 50 states and took several cruises around Europe after retiring. He had many friends and enjoyed lunching with his friends at KW cafeteria or Hendrix Barbecue where he would have a vegetable plate. He was a lifelong member of First Methodist Church in Salisbury.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Irving E. and Lucille Dearman Shafer and his brother Irving Shafer, Jr. He is survived by his wife, Beth Belk Shafer; daughter, Elizabeth McClelland; son-in-law, Steven McClelland, grandsons, Connor and Andrew McClelland; nephew, Irving Shafer, III (Terry); and nieces Melissa Manos (Michael) and Georgia Vaughn (Rick).

A memorial service will be held 11 a.m. Friday (December 8) at First United Methodist Church, officiated by Rev. Dr. Mark Conforti. The family will receive friends following the service in the church Fellowship Hall.

In lieu of flowers please send memorials to the First United Methodist Church, 217 S. Church Street, Salisbury, NC 28144 or Rowan Helping Ministries, PO Box 4026, Salisbury, NC 28145..

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Shafer family. Online condolences may be made at [www.summersettfuneralhome.com](http://www.summersettfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

DEC 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church  
217 S. Church St.  
Salisbury, NC 28144

## Visitation Following Service

DEC 8 (ET)

First United Methodist Church  
217 S. Church St.  
Salisbury, NC 28144

# Tribute Wall

LK

“ *Sending my deepest condolences to the family!*

**Lakeya Kincaid** - December 12, 2023 at 11:15 PM

BW

“ *Frank was a wonderful human being. He was caring and had huge empathy for all around him. We have know Frank and Beth since we moved here in 1994 and will miss him dearly. Our love and condolences to Beth and thief family. Brenda & Gerry Wood*

**Brenda & Gerry Wood** - December 07, 2023 at 03:45 PM

WB

*So sorry for your loss Beth. Prayers for you and your family.*

**Wanda Barringer** - December 08, 2023 at 07:36 AM

JG

“ *I had the privilege of cleaning the home of the Shafers for a good many years before Dr. Shafer's health declined. Being around him and Beth was such a positive environment and it didn't take long to grow fond of them. In their home, care and love for each other was so evident. I admire the devotion that both of them have for each other as well as Liz and her family. I know Dr. Shafer will be greatly missed and I'll always remember him saying every time I saw him: "Enjoy yourself while you're young". Beth, May God bless and comfort you and all your family especially during this time.*



*Janice Gillean*

**Janice Gillean** - December 07, 2023 at 09:39 AM

SH

“ So sorry to hear of Dr Shafer’s passing. I had the pleasure of working for him for 10 years. He was so smart and had some good stories to tell. My thoughts are with Beth, Liz and family at this difficult time. 🙏

Sharon Hoffman - December 07, 2023 at 08:41 AM

RM

“ I worked as an R.N. at Rowan Memorial Hospital for 41yrs. I worked with Dr. Shafer for many years. He was a very special person and Physician. I can't express how special he was, but all who knew him already know. He was so kind to his patients and staff. With my deepest sympathy to Beth and his family. Ruth W. Martin

Ruth W. Martin - December 06, 2023 at 05:08 PM

SM

“ I’ve known Frank for only 15 of his 95 years but know him as a giant personality with a huge heart. I cherish his love of family and memories of the holidays we shared. Frank’s stories were fun and compelling as he related years of experience. I appreciated his love of travel, love of theatre and musicals and without a doubt, his love of Las Vegas! Frank will be missed but he has left us with fabulous memories. To Beth and Liz and the boys, much love through this time of grief.

Susan McClelland - December 05, 2023 at 06:14 PM

MB

“ I will miss him so much. Best and smartest doctor I have ever known. I don’t remember him ever missing a diagnosis. In fact , He diagnosed my sister without having seen her. One of the great doctors and friend, husband, father and grandfather finished his earthly journey.. We will meet again!

Mary Ann Barger - December 05, 2023 at 04:00 PM

JC

“ I am SO sorry to hear of Dr. Shafer's passing. During my years at Dr. Goodman's office and RDC, I would see Dr. Shafer at or around the hospital area. Though he never knew my name, we always spoke anytime the opportunity presented. Thoughts and prayers for all during this heartfelt time.

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**Jenny Cruse** - December 05, 2023 at 03:35 PM