

Thomas Jay Burkhart, son of Bette (Crisp) and Andrew Burkhart, was born July 5, 1947 in Sioux Falls, SD. He grew up in Dell Rapids graduating from Dell Rapids High School in 1965. He then attended Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD where he graduated in 1969. He then received his BS in Medicine from the University of South Dakota in 1971 and went on to receive his Medical Degree (MD) from the University of Minnesota in 1973. He completed an Internship in Medicine at Hennepin County Medical Center in 1974 and received Board Certification of Internal Medicine in 1976 upon completing his 2 years of Residency at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. He began his Internal Medicine practice at Sioux Valley Hospital in 1976 where he practiced until 1991. He then practiced medicine at the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center where he retired in 2010.

Tom married Jeanette (Williams) December 29, 1968 in Dell Rapids, SD. They were blessed with two children; Julie (Brian) Van Dam and Matt (Tamara) Burkhart. Tom was a loving, caring Husband, Father, Grandfather, Doctor and true friend to many. Tom made a life out of being one of the most compassionate, caring and genuine doctors in his field. Tom also thoroughly enjoyed and had a passion for learning everything there was to know about medicine and computers and took great pride in teaching others throughout life. He loved watching his kids and grandkids grow up and spending time listening to music and spending time with his wife.

Tom is survived by his wife, Jeanette; his daughter Julie (Brian), Dell Rapids, SD.; his son Matt (Tamara), Dunlap, IA; his six grandchildren, Taylor, Brooke and Andrew Van Dam, Dell Rapids, SD., Abigail, Talia and Tristen Burkhart, Dunlap, IA.; his sister-in-law, Phyllis (Deane) Koller of Sioux Falls; his cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Andrew and Bette Burkhart; his infant brother, John and his brother, Bill Burkhart.

*In Memory of*

## **Dr. Thomas Jay Burkhart**

Born - July 5, 1947 ~ Died - March 28, 2021

### ***Funeral Service***

West Nidaros Lutheran Church

Crooks, South Dakota

Thursday, April 1, 2021 ~ 10:00 a.m.

### ***Clergy***

Pastor Jared Rakness

### ***Casketbearers***

Kevin Crisp

Ken Crisp

Mark Crisp

Brian Burkhart

Bruce Burkhart

John Wiarda

### ***Honorary Casketbearers***

Taylor Van Dam

Brooke Van Dam

Andrew Van Dam

Abigail Burkhart

Talia Burkhart

Tristen Burkhart

### ***Interment***

Logan Reformed Cemetery

Dell Rapids, South Dakota

# Thank you . . .

## Dr. Tom Burkhart

Dear Bulletin Board:

The words, "Thank you for all of your help," seem very inadequate when said to a person who has helped a member of your family through a heart attack. Perhaps by saying it in an open letter it will make those words mean more.

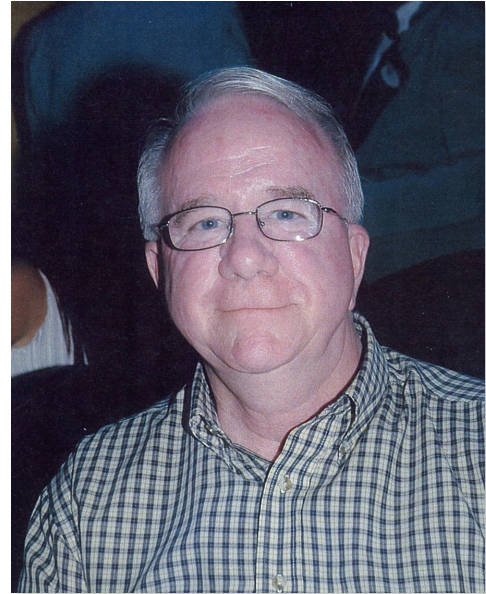
On June 25 my 38 year old brother, David, suffered a heart attack and was taken to Sioux Valley Hospital. As soon as his family doctor, Dr. Larry Sittner, had made the diagnosis of the attack he called in Dr. Tom Burkhart, but in the two weeks that David was hospitalized we became great admirers of his. Dr. Burkhart visited David 2 or 3 times a day the first week and at least once a day after that. As busy as he was he never left the coronary care area without checking the waiting rooms to talk to our family and give us a report on David's condition. There were times that he spent 15 or 20 minutes with us explaining things and answering our "stupid" questions. He would tell us to stop him if we didn't understand something and he'd explain it again.

I'm sure there were other families in the coronary unit who really envied us because we had a doctor who was concerned not only about his patient, but also about the family who were sitting waiting, wondering and worrying.

Are the Dr. Burkharts a one-in-a-million? I hope not, but if so, I'm awfully glad we got to know this one.

Once again, thank you for all of your help, Dr. Burkhart! Thanks, too, to your family for having to sacrifice time with you so that you can help so many others.

Mrs. Ken (Linda) Olson



*In Memory of*

*Dr. Thomas Burkhart*

July 5, 1947 ~ March 28, 2021

*Funeral Arrangements by Kahler Funeral Home  
Dell Rapids, South Dakota*