



Dr. Rao Guthikonda

February 6, 1946 - December 2, 2008

Dr. Rao Guthikonda Beloved husband, loving father, adoring grandfather, pediatrician and well-known leader in the Detroit Indian-Telugu community, passed away December 2, 2008 at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn, Michigan following a fight with brain cancer. Dr. Rao was born in Ayanapalem, Andhra Pradesh, India in 1946. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Suryakumari Guthikonda; daughters Padma Guthikonda Nallamothe and Shilpa Guthikonda Fugolo; and grandchildren Rukmini Kumari, Dhruv Kartik and Janaki Lakshmi Nallamothe. Visitation and funeral services will be held Sunday, December 7th at the Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170. Visitation is from 11 AM to 2 PM followed by funeral services. In lieu of flowers, friends and family are asked to consider a contribution to Dr. Rao's passion, The SV Temple & Cultural Center, P.O. Box 699, Novi, Michigan 48376 or Oakwood Healthcare System Foundation, 23400 Michigan Avenue, Suite 301, Dearborn, Michigan 48124-1915. To leave an expression of sympathy, please click on the condolences link on this page.

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Rao Guthikonda*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *The Bible makes the promise: “Your dead ones Yes, Almighty God has not only the power but also the desire to resurrect persons whom he chooses. Jesus Christ himself said: “Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out.”—John 5:28, 29; Acts 24:15. Respectfully, M. Franklin*

M. Franklin - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM



“ *Our sincere thoughts and prayers for Dr. Rao's family and friends. I just received notice today of his passing and words can't describe the sorry our family is feeling. For the past 14 yrs. Dr. Rao has treated my son and daughter and was always there when we needed him. I remember him joking with me when I called him when he was playing golf. He took my call and immediately called in a prescription when we were on vacation. We all just loved him and his warm smile and compassion! He will be truly missed! Our prayers and thoughts always!*

Lynette, Ken, Kayla & Micah Guzman - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

TF

“ Dr. Rao We miss you! We know you are in heaven now and looking down on us. Thank you for all you have done during your life on earth. You were the best pediatrician any family could ask for. We pray for your family that Jesus would wrap his loving arms around them and keep them safe until you meet again. Love and Prayers.
The Andree Family

The Andree Family - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

LM

“ We will miss Dr. Rao so very much.....He was Madison's pediatrician since her birth 9 years ago and was a kind, caring ,intelligent and loving doctor who really cared about not just his patients, but their families. We are heartbroken and we will miss his smile and gentle reassurance. He has guided us through Madison's diagnosis with Marfan Syndrome and every childhood bump in the road and we will miss him dearly. He is an angel and we pray for him today and thank God for him always. We know he will watch over all of us. Thank you , Dr. Rao. Sincerely, the Moss family

Lisa, Steve, and Madison Moss - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

ES

“ Dr. Rao Thank you for being you. It was our pleasure to work for you. Words cannot express our sadness. We will pray for your family. I know your spirit is always with them. We'll miss you!!!

Elaine, Shannon & Sahar - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

AT

“ Our sympathy to Dr. Rao's family. He was a wonderful doctor to our daughter and a very special person. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.

Anastasia Kish, Karen and Tim - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

TF

“ Words can't even express how heartbroken we were to hear this horrible news. We want to sincerely thank Dr. Rao for everything he did for our children. He will be forever missed and we pray that his family finds peace. We will never forget you, Dr. Rao! Vince and Julia love you!!!

The Lang Family - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

VM

“ We would like to express our deepest sympathies for your loss. God bless you.

Vijay K. Kotha, MD - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

JH

“ Dear Guthikonda Family, We have always considered Dr. Rao our family friend as well as an outstanding pediatrician. Zachary has been under his care since birth and is now 17. Always thoughtful and caring for our needs. We will hold him close in our hearts forever. With respect and prayers, The Haar Family

Jim, Sue & Zachary Haar - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

DW

“ It was my privilege and pleasure to have known and worked with Dr. Rao in medical education. My prayers and thoughts are with his family.

D.J. Wiklendt - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

TF

“ Dr. Rao was our kind and trusted pediatrician, taking excellent care of our four children over the past 22 years. He will be sadly missed by our family, and all those whose lives he helped and touched. Our deepest sympathy to his wife, daughters and their families...whom he always spoke so proudly of. You are in our thoughts and prayers.
Pat and Kim Reilly Courtney, Patrick, Lindsay and Eric

The Reilly Family - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

JE

“ Dr. Rao was my sons Doctor for 16 years, he has helped me through quite a bit. What a dedicated doctor, who always made it a point of knowing his patients. He knew their name and their history, this not only helped the children but put me at ease. I trusted my sons life with him. He will be truly missed. He is an individual that you could not help but love and respect. My deepest sympathies.
Jan and Chris Eskin

Jan and Christopher Eskin - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

MS

“ Dr. Rao was a wonderful doctor and human being...he will be missed by all that knew him.

mike,elisabeth,michael,maxwell stanford - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

DH

“ Dr. Rao was our pediatrician for many years. He was a gentle, loving, and caring man and physician. He will truly be missed. We all now have a beautiful angel looking down upon us. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Dave, Pat, Jake, Jeremy, & Meghan Horgan - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

MD

“ Our prayers go out to your family. Dr. Rao is such a wonderful, loving, caring doctor. We will miss him truly, he has known our children since birth. His patience persevered for all of us first time mothers, with all the questions and emergency visits. Thank you all you have done to touch so many lives and healed so many boo boo's. Now is a time celebrate his life. We will pray for Dr. Rao's family as they go through this time for peace and understanding. God Bless.

Mat, Cindy, Hailey, Connor and Joshua DeWolfe - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

PG

“ No words can express the deep feelings of sorrow felt by myself and my family. Over a 25 year span, Dr. Rao was our special Dr.; first to my grandchildren, then to my great grandchildren, and to me he became a special friend. Our sincere sympathies to his loving family

Peachy girl - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

JR

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Dr. Rao was such a wonderful man who will be missed horribly. He was an excellent doctor who our family has trusted for years. There are not many doctors out there like he was, Caring and thoughtful. I will miss the way he would greet my boys while coming into the room by saying "what is the wrong boy". He was a wonderful man.

Jacob, Lucas and Lisa Ringe - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

TF

“ It is difficult to express the amount of respect and admiration that we had for Dr Rao. Our daughters have only been fortunate enough to be his patients for 4 short years. Dr Rao had nonetheless been an important part of our lives. Whenever they went to him, they were so excited to see him, and wanted to tell him so much. He made them feel comfortable and important in what could have been a scary place for a child. His compassion and expertise had also reassured these parents on many occasions. Always available, kind and understanding, even when called late at night. He epitomized the ideal pediatrician. He will be deeply missed by our family. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family. Bill, Lori, Olivia & Alexandra Heckman

The Heckman Family - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

TF

“ Dr. Rao has been our childrens Dr. for 15yrs and was a wonderful, caring man. He will be missed and never forgotten by us and many other families! I will miss passing him in the stairwells at Oakwood; our hospital has lost the best Doctor a child (and parent) could ever ask for! Brenda, Emily and Scott

The Giroux Family - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

JD

“ Oh boy where do we start. You have been with us from the beginning of our lives. You were always there for us day or night. We loved you as our doctor & you will be greatly missed. For your family & staff- We are so sorry for your loss. He was a great person. Love John & Eric

John & Eric Brucker & our Mom & Dad - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

SA

“ My deepest sympathy for your loss. Dr. Rao was a good person and a wonderful physician. My prayers and thoughts are with his wife and family. God bless him.

steve atallah,M.D. - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

BT

“ We were all so saddened by Dr. Rao's passing. He has been a part of our family for 18 years--the day after Holly was born. He was always so compassionate and loving to our kids--that our kids felt like home in his office. What a loss this is to your family as well as our entire community.

Bill, Nanc, Holly & Bruce Tebelman - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

OO

“ I wish you were still alive. I wish you could be back forever and ever. I wish you could hug me again. Becuase you won't come back forever. I am glad you feel better but I wish you could be my best friend again. I wish you to come back and I hope you feel better I wish you could come by my friendsOlivia attard

Olivia Attard 5 years old - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

PZ

“ I met Dr. Rao in 1987, when I worked in the Medical Education Department. He was the most kind, generous and dedicated person I met at Oakwood. I truly will miss him. I had not seen him for some time as I moved off site in 2000, but would talk with him on the phone many times. The medical field, especially pediatrics, has lost a most special man. Please accept my condolences. He will be missed.

Pam Zbikowski - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

TF

“ Dr. Rao will always be very special to our family. He was such a compassionate and caring man. It was an honor to have him as our Pediatrician, he always took such wonderful care of Brandon & Stephanie. He will be truly missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. Sincerely, Mike, Denise, Brandon & Stephanie Sutherland

The Sutherland Family - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

RK

“ To, Dr. Rao's Family It was very shocking to hear the loss of Dr. Rao. He was more than just a wonderful person. He was always so kind and considerate to us. Our Son (6 yrs old) always loved to visit him and they did chat a lot during the visits. We know that his passing will not only leave a void in our lives, but in the hearts of all those who knew him. Our sincere thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, Rakkappan & Kavitha

Rakkappan & Kavitha - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

TF

“ Dr. Rao will be remembered as a caring and gentle man who cared for our two sons Christopher and Conor for 14 years. We were all fortunate to have him as part of our lives. He will be truly missed. Our prayers go to his family that he spoke so proudly of. Sincerely, Christopher and Consuelo Ordo

The Ordo family - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

JZ

“ The world is a lesser place and now heaven is blessed with his grace and we are all the better for having known Dr. Rao. Our deepest condolences to Suri, Padma, Shilpa and all of the family.

Jack and Barbara Zelazny - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

BB

“ Our condolences to the Guthikonda Family we will always remember him as a person of fun at family get togethers as you can tell by the very nice picture of him in the Free Press.

Bob & Eleanor Bielenda - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

SF

“ Dr. Rao, our pediatrician from birth, was always kind, compassionate and generous. A true gentleman in every sense of the word. It has been our privilege to have such a good man administering to our family's health throughout the years. He will be truly missed.

Swider-Sisk family - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM

RH

“ Sorry to hear of the loss of Dr. Rao. He will truly be missed by all,

Rev. Roger Lands -- Chaplain - Annapolis Hospital - December 12, 2014 at 10:21 AM