

**Eulogy**  
**Thomas Hudson Beare**  
**Christ Church North Adelaide**  
**2.30pm Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 09**

Julie, family and friends.

We would be a sorry lot indeed if we did not realize the terrible loss that has befallen us today with the death of Thomas Hudson Beare.

He rejoiced in a happy family life with his children and grandchildren who were a particular joy and pride. Tom made many wonderful contributions of which you were aware. There were also many other contributions of which you were not aware.

He could not have given so much to so many people without Julie's support and devotion.

To Julie and all the family I offer heartfelt sympathy in the loss you have suffered, I hope you will be comforted and strengthened in your sorrow by the knowledge of the admiration and affection in which he was held by all who knew him.

Later towards the end he was to say to me "when you talk would you tell them I love them all, especially the family and Julie. I cannot bear to leave her.

What manner of man was he? Apart from all the good things he was forthright, strong willed and at times a little cantankerous- inherited from his father who also gave him great medical clinical ability.

In 1945 he trained as a navigator in the RAAF and at war's end commenced his medical training at the University of Adelaide. He came to the Royal Adelaide Hospital as a house surgeon whilst I was also there. This really started our friendship. Tom went on to the Adelaide Children's Hospital and then decided to go the UK to seek post graduate medical training. He worked his passage as Ship's Surgeon in the Blue Funnel Line "Nestor". I followed him on the same ship and we caught up in London.

We sat for our Fellowships at about the same and both failed. So we went to Edinburgh and after some more training, presented ourselves and both passed.

Back in London for more courses and hospital work. Once again Tom went through the examination for the English Fellowship in Medicine. This time he was successful. There was still some time for tennis and cricket and Tom made a few good scores and took quite a few wickets.

He had intended to stay on in London to work as a registrar and enjoy some of the culture, but he was invited to return to the staff at the Adelaide Children's Hospital. First he did some more training at Great Ormond Street Hospital for sick children and at the school of Tropical Medicine.

He returned the way he came working his passage in the 'Nestor'. At the ACH and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital he soon built up a reputation as a great clinician, teacher and administrator and combined this with a flourishing private practice. He stressed the help he received from senior paediatricians in getting established.

He enjoyed all his work but had time for his family, golf, tennis, bowls, music and bridge. Life was good.

He was still able to find time for service in the Army Medical Reserve in which he had enlisted in 1952. Through a series of appointments he was eventually promoted to Colonel and Director of Medical Services.

In 1967 General Gurner came to SA to discuss the care of casualties in Vietnam. Tom and I suggested that a Surgical Team could be formed from volunteers from the CMF and attached to the Regular Army Field Ambulance in Vietnam to produce a Field Hospital. We suddenly found ourselves in the team. Off we went, first distinguishing ourselves by oversleeping in our hotel in Sydney and nearly missing the plane, then somehow losing our rifles.

To welcome us the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong launched the massive Tet offensive. We were overwhelmed by the medical and surgical casualties. Tom had an enormous workload of physical problems from day one. He was on duty 24 hours a day. His Tropical Medical training was to prove invaluable.

There were times when I almost collapsed but suddenly at my side would appear Tom whose medical and moral support gave me the strength to press on. He was tremendous and the soldiers appreciated his gentle care and counselling.

At last it was all over and we headed home to rebuild our lives and Tom to return to his beloved sick babies. For Tom there was other work to do and he volunteered for Legacy. This was best described in the Death Notices. The Enfield legacy said, "We are sad to learn of the passing of our Legatee Dr Tom - a true gentleman who gave his support and wisdom to us."

He learnt of his serious condition in December but carried on with confidence and a conviction that he would recover. At bowls he was runner up in the club championship pairs, 6 weeks ago on his very last day he won the Wednesday match trophy. What a way to go!

Shortly after he collapsed and was admitted to Calvary Hospital and the Mary potter Hospice. But still he did not give up. He improved and said he would like to go home to Julie and a decent feed. They had three great weeks. One day he got up and pruned a rose bush. On another he invited friends for bridge. He spent his days with books and music.

But he collapsed again and last week returned to the Mary potter. He spent his last day with Julie and the family and beating time to the music of Mozart. We can go with the knowledge that there has passed our way a man high amongst all men.