



Florence Deborah Wooten, M.D.

JUN 28, 1953 - MAR 12, 2025



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“**A** life lived with purpose, a heart devoted to care.”

Dr. Florence Wooten, a cherished physician, loving mother and grandmother, and proud lifelong Houstonian, passed away peacefully on March 12, 2025, surrounded by her family and the warmth of the memories she created with those she loved. She was 71 years old.

Born on June 28, 1953, in Houston, Texas, Florence’s journey began in the vibrant community of Third Ward. She attended St. Nicholas Catholic School, St. Mary’s Catholic School, Mount Carmel High School and Howard University before graduating from the University of Houston. Inspired by her father, the late Dr. Hargrove Wooten, she followed in his footsteps and earned her medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Tennessee—a place that helped shape her lifelong commitment to excellence, compassion, and service.

Dr. Wooten began her career in ophthalmology alongside her father at Physicians Eye Associates before founding her own practice, Wooten Vision Care, where she faithfully served the Houston community for over 30 years. Vision care was more than her profession—it was her passion and her purpose. She offered more than treatment; she gave her patients a sanctuary. Always just a call away, she welcomed each person with a smile, a listening ear, and a heart full of care. For her, quality of care wasn’t a goal—it was a calling.

Supported throughout her career by her devoted staff—Tracie Scott White, Terri Cavazos, Florentina Barrios, Morris Green, Tema Bell, Kathy Nguyen, Kristin Henry, Mary Barela, Dr. Ouida Middleton and Deana McCathern—Dr. Wooten built a legacy of healing and trust rooted in genuine connection and a shared passion for service. When not in her office, Florence delighted in life’s simple joys. She adored spending time with her grandchildren, tending her garden, and enjoying a good movie. A lover of music in all forms—from classical to classic R&B—she was always ready to dance.



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She was also a proud and loyal Texans fan, never missing a game and always cheering with heart.

Dr. Wooten was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Dr. Hargrove and Eleanor Wooten. She is survived by her loving daughter, Eleanor Curry; her “daughter from another mother,” Tema Bell; her treasured grandchildren Cheyenne Campbell and Bronx Curry; and her bonus granddaughter, Mattison Taylor. Her sisters, Patrice Wooten Hightower and Sharon Kailimai, brother-in-love John Hightower, niece Lailoni and grandniece Nakoia, carry her light forward with grace and love. Each of them—and every life she touched—carries a part of her strength, joy, and boundless heart.

A celebration of Dr. Wooten’s remarkable life will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary’s Purification Church in Houston, Texas. Family, friends, former patients, and members of the community are invited to join in remembrance and reflection.

Dr. Florence Wooten leaves behind a legacy built not just in the years she lived, but in the lives she healed and hearts she touched. Her spirit will live on in every smile, every act of kindness, and every step forward inspired by her care.





Events


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Recital of the Rosary


 **Saturday**, March 29, 2025


 10:00 AM CT


 **St. Mary of the Purification Catholic Church**
3006 Rosedale Street, Houston TX 77004



Memorial Mass

 **Saturday**, March 29, 2025

 11:00 AM CT

 **St. Mary of the Purification Catholic Church**
3006 Rosedale Street, Houston TX 77004





Tribute Wall

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JM

Jackie Morris posted:

I am saddened not only by the passing of Dr. Wooten but also, for learning of her homegoing so late. As a patient that had been searching for answers for decades and being diagnosed on my first visit to Dr. Wooten. It was a privilege to have known her and been a patient. Enjoy your tea and rest Dr. Wooten.

September 19 at 4:27 AM

PA

Patrice Revels Adams posted:

I just learned of Dr Wooten's passing. I have been a patient of Her's since 2004. She was a good friend and a phenomenal doctor. She saved my life/ eye at a critical time in my life. She was one of the best doctors anybody met. I'm going to miss her and Morrison doing my eye exam,

July 31 at 8:58 AM

JL

Jerry Long August 8 at 6:27 PM

My name is Jerry Long Dr Wooten was my doctor for 21 years to save my eyes I'm going to miss you and thank you for your service for me a job well done I really do appreciate you for what you did for me and my mother eyes thank you thank you

JC

Jane L Cyrus posted:

I just learned of Dr Wooten's passing. I have been a patient of her's since 2021. She undoubtedly was one of the most gentle human beings I ever met. I never doubted she cared about and for her patients to the highest degree she could. I felt a "family" kind of relationship in her extent of care she gave all. She is with Jesus now and free of all pain, sickness, and sadness. I will see her again in that beautiful place of love and peace. Jane Cyrus

July 24 at 5:13 AM

MB

Marguerite Butler August 4 at 10:35 AM

My heart is broken to learn that Dr. Wooten passed. She was the most caring, kind and professional doctor and person that I have ever met. When I heard this just a few moments ago, I cried crocodile tears. I am soooo sad to know I won't be able to greet her again on this side. I thank God for her life and for care she gave to the human beings she touched.



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Jane Dancison posted:

Dr. Wooten will always be known as an extraordinary human being. I loved coming into her office. It was like walking onto a porch in the summertime. Everyone says hello to everybody else. There was never a stranger in the waiting room. Everybody started conversations and made friends. All that was missing was a pitcher of lemonade, rocking chairs, and a fan to stay cool. That warmth is a reflection of Dr. Wooten I will miss seeing her. There's no other place quite like Dr. Wooten's office. Thank you, Dr. Wooten and your wonderful staff for the many years of service you gave me and so many others. Jane D

July 1 at 4:45 PM



Lisa Wheaton lit a candle in honor of Florence.



April 23 at 8:54 AM



Laruth Venters posted:

I was shocked and saddened to hear of Dr. Wooten's passing. I called her office to make an appointment and was told she had passed the previous week. She was a very compassionate engaging and very attentive person. I really enjoyed talking with her on my visits. She never rushed; always made time. I will miss her ❤️. LaRuth Venters

April 20 at 11:50 AM



Paul Madkins lit a candle in honor of Florence.

I became a patient of Dr. Wooten around 2003. She provided me with the best eye care possible. I am so saddened by her passing. It is like losing a family member. She is truly missed. God Bless her daughter, grandchildren, and family. May She Rest in Eternal Peace. Paul Madkins.



April 17 at 10:47 AM



Barbara Ellis posted:

I have been a patient of Dr. Wooten for over 20 years. I will miss her honesty and friendliness. Several members of my family have been coming to her office too. May she rest in peace.

March 29 at 2:26 PM



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Chris Bell posted:

Debbie was my grandmother, Mildred Simon's (wife of Joseph Simon) eye doctor for a number of years. I know they enjoyed each visit and probably spent a lot of the time talking! Praying for a peace that surpasses all understanding.

March 29 at 11:23 AM



Keith A Bourgeois, Md posted:

I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Wooten for many years. She was a wonderful physician and friend. Her patients were very devoted to her office because of the excellent care that she provided. Keith A Bourgeois, MD

March 28 at 8:12 AM



John Scott March 31 at 1:27 PM
The Best Ever



Paul Richard sent an Arrive in Style to the Wooten, M.D. family.



March 28 at 7:33 AM



Art, Brittney And Trip Maguire sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Wooten, M.D. family.



March 28 at 6:15 AM



Bervis Mcbride Dds posted:

Love the entire Wooten family. They welcomed me to Houston back in 1979 and treated me like family. Rest in peace Florence 🙏

March 28 at 1:23 AM



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Judy Oliver-Royston lit a candle in honor of Florence.

I will miss Dr. Wooten. She was an amazing person and gifted ophthalmologist. Before meeting Dr. Wooten, I had never had an extensive eye exam like the one I received in her office. Her level of care and kindness was impeccable. Every visit with her was a joy and education moment. I am going to miss her dearly. I count it a blessing to have had Dr. Wooten as my eye specialist. The family, friends and staff of Dr. Wooten are in my thoughts and prayers.



March 27 at 8:03 PM



Vonda Johnson Ervin posted:

I started going to Dr. Wooten many years ago. My parents, and many of my family members were patients also. I loved the way she kept a smile on her face, and the love she has for her patients. It's going to be hard to find another doctor that cares for yours eyes the way she did. Will definitely be praying for her family and her staff. She will be greatly missed. 🙏🙏 The Johnson and Ervin Family 💜

March 27 at 1:12 PM



Helen Lewis March 28 at 9:44 AM

I'm so saddened by Dr. Wooten's passing. She was always so personable during her examinations and made you feel as a priority, no matter how many other patients there were. She will truly be missed. God Speed to her family, coworkers, friends and patients like me! H M Lewis



Trina posted:

I'm so sad to hear that Dr. Wooten passed away. She was my favorite doctor and the only ophthalmologist I've ever had. I'm almost 50 now, and I started seeing her when I was in high school. I refused to see anyone else over the years, no matter who my insurance provider happened to be :) . When I was in graduate school in California, I would even fly home to Houston for appointments! She's the only one I trusted with my eye health. I will miss her kindness, chats, and listening to NPR or classical music in her exam room/office. I will also miss her very calming voice - that voice that would put anyone with anxiety about doctors or their eyes at ease. My family's thoughts are with her family, the team at Wooten Optical, and her practice.

March 27 at 8:12 AM



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Linda Claire posted:

It saddens me and my daughter in hearing about her passing She was a beautiful person who always has a smile for you and was the best ophthalmologist for us She always welcomed you not as a patient but a friend when you come for your appt Dr Wooten we will miss you May the angels in heaven welcome you to paradise and may you rest in eternal peace Linda and Trina Claire 🌹🌹🌹🌹👤👤👤

March 27 at 4:41 AM



Lisa Wheaton April 23 at 8:51 AM

Dr. Wooden took care of my significant other Louis Williams for over 15 years, always smiling and caring, I was saddened to hear of her passing, I will never forget the care you gave to Louis and the importance of his eyes, you were the best and I give you all the credit for noticing a small mass behind his eye that led to major surgery and the comfort you gave to me at his passing in 2023, May you rest in God's loving arms for you work on earth done, rest with the angles Dr. Wooden, love cheeks as you affectionately called me 🍷



Vickie Rasmus posted:

Dr. Wooten U will be truly, truly be missed. U were such a BEAUTIFUL person with such great personality. I always loved the way you spent time with me and all your patients. Vickie Rasmus

March 26 at 3:53 PM



Donna Denise Smith posted:

Cori, Patty, Sharon & extended family and friends my sincere condolences on your loss of your loved one, Dr. Florence Wooten. May Debbie RIP and you all find comfort in knowing she's okay or in a better place with her folks and others we love. Continue to take care of yourselves. God's got us. Love y'all. Donna Smith

March 26 at 10:50 AM



Mr. Charles Tates posted:

I am very sorry for your loss. Dr. Wooten has been my physician for a number of years. The entire family and her staff will be in my prayers as I continue to ask God for strength. Dr. Wooten will surely be missed.

March 25 at 10:58 AM



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SG

Sandra Y. Green posted:

Dr. Wooten was a very kind, considerate and friendly doctor. I have been her patient for many years and she will truly be missed. Get your rest now sweet lady!

March 25 at 9:53 AM

MC

Marketta Chapman lit a candle in honor of Florence.

My sincerest condolences to the family & staff of Dr. Wooten, she will be greatly missed. Get your rest my beautiful friend & physician

March 24 at 12:35 PM



MB

Michael Wayne Berry June 3 at 5:07 AM

I was saddened to hear of Dr. Wooten's passing. My co-worker and I both were her patients for a number of years. The best care was offered along with compassion by Dr. Florence. She will forever be remembered for great service and dedication. I was referred to her decades ago by Dr. Winston Watkins Jr. the care that she was passionate about will never be paralleled by any other. Not only was she our physician she was our friend as well. If you called and the office was closed she was also the answering service I don't know of any other doctor who did that. That's dedication. She performed my cataract surgery and brought me back to 20/20+ post surgery. I will forever be grateful for her service to me and the community. Her staff was a mirror of her as well. They cared for you as family as opposed to simply being another customer. Thank you Dr. Wooten and staff. Job Well Done. Deepest Condolences to you all. 🌹👥❤️

RM

Rev. Thomas J Minor April 9 at 10:46 AM

Condolences to family and friends of Dr. Wooten. She was a great person and caring doctor. I always enjoyed my visits with her and the care she displayed in caring for me and my family members. Dr. Wooten had style, always a good story, and away of probing you for answers about your life that let you know of her deep nature and zest for life. May she now rest in peace and her memory continue to be a blessing. Rev. Thomas Minor & family

BH

Billy Hall March 31 at 7:19 AM

I had been a patient of Dr. Wooten for many years. My wife was also a patient of Dr. Wooten for many years. She was a true professional and always made you feel special. My wife would say when you went for your appointment always take a lunch. But it was worth the wait. I will always remember when my wife passed, Dr. Wooten told me she would always be remembered in this office. May GOD bless the family. DR. was a special person. Billy Hall



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Florence by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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