



## Keumhwa Choi

November 26, 1953 - May 8, 2023

Survived by her daughter, Kamilyn Choi; mother, Ki-ok Yoo; sisters, Yeunhwa Kim, Songhwa Percival, Sunhwa Kim and Kyunghwa Kim. Preceded in death by her husband, Changsoo Choi; father, Daekyung Kim; brothers, Hanil Kim and Hanchul Kim.

A Memorial Service is planned for 2:00PM Saturday, May 20 at Holcomb-Henry-Boom-Purcell Funeral Home, 515 Highway 96 West, Shoreview. Interment Roselawn Cemetery.

Keumhwa was born in Busan, South Korea and raised in Seoul. Dr. Choi received a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Seoul and a Master of Science degree in Veterinary Microbiology from Seoul National University. Dr. Choi worked as a scientist at the National Veterinary Research Institute in Korea for 8 years. Subsequently, she was a visiting scientist at the Pasteur Institute in Paris and Institute of National Research Agronomy (INRA), Thiverval Grignon, France. After that, Dr. Choi received a PhD in Veterinary Pathobiology and a Post Doctorate in Molecular Biology/Immunology at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota. Since then, she worked as a faculty member at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota and pioneered the Complementary and Alternative Medicine section at the University of Minnesota's Veterinary Medical Center. Dr. Choi was also trained and certified in veterinary acupuncture from the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society (IVAS).

Dr. Choi also trained in Oriental Medicine (Human) at several institutes including Shandong Traditional Chinese Medicine (Jinan, China), Beijing Agriculture University (Beijing, China), College of Oriental Medicine at Kyung Hee University (Seoul, Korea), Dun San Oriental Medical Cancer Center (Daejeon, Korea), and Dae Jeon Oriental Medical School (Daejeon, Korea). She obtained a Master of Science degree in Oriental Medicine from the American Academy of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine.

Post Doctorate in Molecular Biology/Immunology, University of Minnesota  
PhD, Veterinary Pathobiology, University of Minnesota

DVM, University of Seoul

MS, Veterinary Microbiology, Seoul National University

MS, Oriental Medicine, American Academy of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine

Diplomate in Herbology, Diplomate in Acupuncture, Diplomate in Oriental Medicine from the National Certificate Commissioner for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM), USA

Licensed acupuncturist in Human, Minnesota board of medical practice, Minnesota, USA

Minnesota Veterinary Specialty License, Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine, Minnesota, USA

Certificate of Completion International Studies of Oriental Medicine, College of Oriental Medicine, Kyung Hee University, Seoul, Korea

# Tribute Wall

JA

“ Patrick and I will be forever grateful for Dr. Choi and all the beautiful healing she did for our pit bull Audrey. She help Audrey live out her final years with dignity. Dr Choi was a healer to all who were lucky to be in her sphere.

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**Jennifer Arave** - June 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ I was saddened to hear the death of Dr. Keum Hwa Choi because she was a Graduate Student of mine and obtained her PhD degree in 1990 in Veterinary Microbiology. As a graduate student, she was productive and was the first author in 9 Abstracts and Proceedings and delivered her research findings at National and International meetings. In addition, she was the first author in 4 peer-reviewed journals. I will miss her. She is now safe in the arms of Jesus and may her soul rest in peace. and may her daughter and rest of her family be comforted with the divine blessings and solace at this time of grief.

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**Emeritus Professor Sam Maheswaran** - May 20, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Doctor Choi Was my daughter's professor at the veterinary school at the university of minnesota. She also treated me and my husband for quite a few years and we got to know her pretty well. Covid interrupted. Our treatments. We will miss her immensely. She was a gentle soul.

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**Karen Brenteson** - May 20, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ Dr. Choi has touched so many lives both personally and professionally in both treating and teaching. So very many two and four legged creatures have benefitted from her care and skill. Dr. Choi's extensive knowledge and expertise that she shared with students and clients alike is truly amazing. The testimonials of miraculous recovery as well as extended quality in life are numerous, even in my personal and pet experiences with her. We are very fortunate to have had the opportunity to have been treated by her extensive skill, kindness and compassion.



Dr. Choi spoke often of Kami with such pride as she marveled at her accomplishments at school and through different life experiences. It was obvious that Kami as well as family in Korea have always been a great source of joy to her.

It is with happiness that Dr. Choi has been a part of our lives but great sorrow that she left us too soon. Sincere condolences to all of her friends and family.

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**Andi Wulff** - May 19, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ Patrick and I will be forever grateful for Dr. Choi and all the beautiful healing she did for our pit bull Audrey. She help Audrey live out her final years with dignity. Dr Choi was a healer to all who were lucky to be in her sphere.



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**Jennifer Arave** - May 19, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ *Dr. Choi was a valued colleague and friend. She taught me the value of alternative medicine and how to blend eastern and western medicine as well. I learned a great deal from her and am a better veterinarian because of it. She was always a pleasure to work with and I will miss her and her unique perspectives.*



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**Betty Kramek** - May 19, 2023 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ *The most wonderful soul I've ever met. I am so sad to read of her passing. She loved our dogs Jessi and Jasper as if they were her own. I looked forward to our weekly visits at the U of M Vet clinic. She would explain so well what she was doing and why, during these sessions. You could feel the positivity and energy as soon as she walked into the room. You will be sadly missed Dr. Choi. Warm hugs to your family.*

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**Lisa Boland-Phillips** - May 19, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ *It is with sadness to hear of Dr. Choi's passing. We are thinking of you, and sharing beautiful memories we had.*



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**Dr. Kyu Hong Tae & Dr. Karen Chang** - May 19, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ *Dr. Choi was an incredible human being. It's impossible to imagine how many beings (of so many species) she helped in countless tangible and significant ways. Her inquisitive and brilliant intellect coupled with her deeply compassionate care made her an exceptional doctor and teacher. I will always be thankful for the quality of life she enabled for my dog (and thereby our family) amidst difficult circumstances. With sincere condolences to Kami, her family, friends and colleagues who loved her.*

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**Brenda** - May 18, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ *It has been my honor both professionally and personally to have known Hwa. She will be deeply missed but always remembered. Warmest thoughts to her family always.*

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**Moe Parks** - May 18, 2023 at 12:00 AM

VS

“ *I was a patient of Dr. Choi, introduced to her by Jaki Cottingham-Zierdt. I will always hold the utmost respect for Dr. Choi and consider her the BEST health care provider I will likely ever know. She was an amazing woman and will be truly, truly missed.  
May God bless her family abundantly in every way.  
Very sincerely,  
Victoria*



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**Victoria Sample** - May 18, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ My deepest sympathy to Dr. Choi's family. I was a student of hers and will remember her fondly. May she rest in peace.



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**Alana Gage** - May 18, 2023 at 12:00 AM

NJ

“ Kami, I am so sorry about your mother passing. My condolences to you and her family and friends. I will miss Dr. Choi's wit and the wise counsel offered freely while she scanned the body, calmly and logically explaining what was going on (too much heat or liver chi stagnation, the body never lies, etc), followed by inserting needles wherever it hurt. Then, she sent me off with dark chocolate and a cup of tea that she said was just as important as herbs. Sometimes you were in the lobby, patiently waiting to drop off a spicy lunch for her. She beamed when talking about you. She told me she felt her purpose was being a good mother and doctor. Dr. Choi taught me it may not be possible to change inherited DNA, but a better quality of life could be created with acupuncture, herbs, and nutrition. She spoke about passing and commented the body was temporary, so her focus was on the health of the spirit by encouraging others and helping them heal or manage health issues. She said she loved her work and felt privileged to help people and their pets. I hope you can take comfort in that.

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**Nancy Jernander** - May 18, 2023 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Rest in peace dear Keumhwa...thank you for sharing your gentle spirit, healing touch and expert knowledge in restoring balance to our animal patients and people! We know you will be deeply missed and may peace be with your family, friends and colleagues at this difficult time. Dr Choi inspired many to seek further training in TCM, and opened many hearts and minds to new ways of thinking and integrating treatment to help patients heal. God bless you and your family ❤️



Susan Spence - May 17, 2023 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ I will be forever grateful for Dr. Choi. She gave SO much to the Education Department at The Raptor Center (TRC). She gave several of the older Education Ambassadors relief from their arthritis symptoms and that helped give them a high quality of life for several more years. The bird we first started with was the bald eagle Othello. We all learned so much in the process. All the animals she worked with (and their humans) were so much better because Dr. Choi was in the world. I will miss her



Gail Buhl - May 17, 2023 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ Keum Hwa Choi was a remarkable woman, mother, wife, friend fellow faculty member, teaching, mentor, Quiet, assuming but a force, a strong force. Hwa you will be missed. You affected so many people, including mine and my family.



Tom and Georgie Molitor - May 17, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ *Hwa was an amazingly compassionate colleague. I appreciated her wisdom and kind smile. I will miss her deeply.*

*Many, many hugs to her family,  
Kelly Tart, DVM*



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**Kelly Tart** - May 17, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ *I am so shocked and sorry to learn of Dr. Choi's passing! I met her for the first time in Dec. of 2014. She was referred to us by other Dr.'s at the University. We brought Oliver, my 4 year old cocker spaniel to see her.*

*He had been diagnosed two months earlier with liver cancer and had been given 6 mos. to a year to live. Over the next several years she administered acupuncture & prescribed him different Korean herbs. We continued to see her until 2020 when she began working from her home.*

*Oliver is now 12 and 1/2 years old! We will be forever grateful to Dr. Choi for her wonderful care!*



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**Marie A. Andersen** - May 16, 2023 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Dr. Choi's death. She was breathtaking to have as a doctor, both for me and my cats. I told her that if she told me to eat dirt and laundry detergent, I would do so because I trusted her implicitly. She just laughed when I told her that. All who knew her are the richer for her presence and lessened by her loss. She will be forever remembered.*

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**Lila Talvitie-Zamora** - May 16, 2023 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ *Dr. Choi Was a Joy!  
She was a friend that when we saw each other after many years it was like we never drifted from that wonderful friendship. I am devastated and was hoping to laugh and share hotel room like we did many times at conferences. I adored her so.  
Love and peace to her beautiful daughter and family  
Leslie Phillips*



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**Leslie Phillips MS DVM** - May 15, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ *My condolences to Kami and all of Dr. Choi's family. She was a wonderful and caring lady who helped us extend the life of a dog with cancer and my own auto accident injuries. She was always caring and gentle with her patients be they 2 or 4 legged. We will miss her. I have never had a better doctor for myself or my animals. She always gave us hope.*



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**Marlys Thomas** - May 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ My heart skipped a beat when I read of Dr. Choi's sudden passing away! I had hoped her retirement from the University of MN Veterinary Medicine meant she'd be having time to herself. Sadly, she must have been suffering and for that my heart aches.

Dr. Choi saw my toy poodle "Charly" via several zoom appointments during COVID-19. Charly had inappetence and inappropriate marking in our house. After a thorough evaluation, where I was included in assisting with the examination, she prescribed Chinese herbs for him. After a few months, Charly had ceased marking and his appetite returned and we were delighted with the results. I agree with so many others that Dr. Choi's blending of allopathic and oriental medicine was such a gift to our community and for the many dogs whose owners had exhausted western medicine. May her spirit be free and find peace now. I will always have deep gratitude for her care and wisdom and send deepest condolences to her beloved daughter, her mother and siblings.



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**Anna Disco** - May 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

TJ

“ She will be missed by many. Very special. She treated several of our pets and also me.



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**Tom Jones** - May 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I had an older dog that could hardly walk. I took him to see Dr. Choi and within weeks he was walking so much better. For over 3 years I spent an hour with her each month learning about her family, culture and travels. She was so interesting and kind. The veterinary world lost a great Dr. and a lot of us lost a great friend.

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**Judi Feldhusen** - May 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ A compassionate and powerful healer. What a gift for those of us who worked with her and had animals she cared for. Our condolences to her family and colleagues. She lives in glory.



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**Suzanne Steffenson** - May 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ I am so saddened to hear this news. Add my name to the list of pet parents who are so incredibly grateful for Dr. Choi's incredible competence, wisdom, empathy, and care for our animals (and by extension all of us). She truly saved my sweet 16 yr old Willie (I adopted him at 11 and, after his loving original "dad" died, he was the only connection their family had to their beloved Pop). Thank you Dr. Choi for being such a vital part of the lives of so many, you will be deeply missed.



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**Katie Querna and Willie (the dog)** - May 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ Dear members of Keum Hwa's family,

*As a colleague at the VMC, I am so saddened by your loss. When I think of her, I remember her wonderful smile, cheerfulness and kindness. I also think about her wonderful cooking, such as the time she showed us how to make jap chae during a live video cooking lesson. She was a lovely person with a generous heart and she is deeply missed.*

*With deepest condolences,  
Rosalind*



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**Rosalind Chow** - May 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ Dr. Choi is one of my heroes! She brilliantly and compassionately cared for our beloved White German Shepherd Carolina for several years at U of M. I know that she helped keep Carolina alive (still today). I had thought of taking Carolina back to see Dr. Choi but knew that she was not seeing patients anymore. I did not really think that Carolina needed to see her, but I longed to be in Dr. Choi's presence.

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**Lynn Argetsinger** - May 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ My condolences to Kami and all of Dr. Choi's family. She was a wonderful and caring lady who helped us extend the life of a dog with cancer and my own auto accident injuries. She was always caring and gentle with her patients be they 2 or 4 legged. We will miss her. I have never had a better doctor for myself or my animals. She always gave us hope.



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**Marlys Thomas** - May 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Words cannot express the love our family has for Dr Choi. We took our Lil Bit in for treatment and Dr Choi gave us 15 months we wouldn't have had otherwise. We are sorry for her family's loss, we wish you nothing but peace.

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**Mendy & Jim Scott** - May 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ I am very sorry for your loss and our thoughts are with her family. Dr Choi was loving and caring to us and our dog Arlo at a very difficult time. She always took extra time with us and Arlo and I know her care helped when we needed it the most.

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**Dan Leavitt** - May 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Dr Choi treated my Scottish Terrier who had allergies for the first ten years of her life with acupuncture treatments. My dog who passed in December just short of 14 years old never again in the last 4 years suffered from allergies. I will be forever grateful for Dr. Choi! Rest in peace dear one.

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**Debra Scott** - May 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

M4

“ She was so very open and generous in her teaching. I was treating a lot of raptors when she gave the lecture at the Georgia AHVMA in 2016, I believe. She kindly answered all of my questions and we discussed her work at UM. I am glad to have known her. Thank you, Dr. Choi for your teaching and kindness.

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**Margarethe L. Garrett DVM , CVA, CCRP 4** - May 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ *Dr Choi was wonderful to our dog Scout. May she rest in peace.*



Reilly Dillon - May 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

LE

“ *It is with such a shock and sadness we received this news of her passing. We miss her personally as well as my oriental medicine practitioner and veterinary cares for our Cosmo and Krios. We will keep your smile in our heart, Dr. Choi.*

Lynne Edwards - May 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ *It seems that I just sent congratulations on Dr. Choi's retirement. This came as shocking news. My deepest sympathies to her family and all those who knew her, worked with her and loved her. What a gift she was for so many years and all of the beloved pets she helped. My dogs were some of the fortunate ones to benefit from her wisdom and compassion. Psalm 116:15*



Leah Abdella - May 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *I'm so sad to read this message! She treated my special Pembroke Corgi, Rosie. I admired her and the care she took with Rosie. My prayers for her family.  
She will be missed ❤️🐾🐾 Jayne B/Rosie*

Jayne Baumgartner - May 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ *Dr Choi saved my life and opened my mind. She is a treasure we were so blessed to have in our lives. She is forever in my heart, I love her.*



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**Kim Cooney** - May 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ *She will be missed.*

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**Todd Chihos** - May 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ *Hwa was such an incredible person on so many levels. I feel privileged to have known her. My deepest sympathies to her family and loved ones.*



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**Carol Gifford** - May 13, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ I want to offer my deepest condolences to the family of Dr. Choi. Dr. Choi was treasure to her patients and there will not be another like her.

*Her mastery of both allopathic and traditional healing is seldom seen in any one individual.*

*Dr. Choi was a profound blessing for one of our dogs, Snowy, when no other services could help her, and provided an approach that gave us many more months with our little rescue peke Snowy.*

*I am very saddened to learn of her passing.*

*I hope her family can find comfort in knowing that there are, many of us who will keep her memory alive for the rest of our lives. How can one ever forget such a soul as hers who has blessed so many?*

*And last, I hope Dr. Choi's children will know that their mother was a quiet giant among healers.*

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**Mary Popp** - May 13, 2023 at 12:00 AM

LO

“ Sending my love and sympathy . I was so lucky to know her .



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**Louise Otten** - May 12, 2023 at 12:00 AM

HP

“ I'm so sorry for your loss Kami. May your lovely mother rest in peace.



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**Harold Pasion** - May 12, 2023 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ It was such a pleasure to work with Dr. Choi during her tenure at the American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture. I am so sad to hear of her passing. My sincere condolences to her family and friends.

Linda Rydgig - May 12, 2023 at 12:00 AM

HP

“ I took the IVAS course with Dr. Choi and she was the kindest most helpful person.

Helen Polan - May 12, 2023 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ What an accomplishment person and such a gift to alternative veterinary medicine. She will be missed.



Carol Lewis - May 12, 2023 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Our deepest sympathies go out to your family.



SNU Alumni Association of Minnesota - May 12, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Hey kami, my heart goes out to you for the loss of your mom. I only video chatted with her once but could tell she was an amazing person and know how much she meant to you. May her soul rest in peace❤️ I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.



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**Meryem Belfouzy** - May 12, 2023 at 12:00 AM

VB

“ Dr. Choi was an amazing teacher and veterinarian! My deepest condolences to her family.



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**Veronica Bartsch** - May 11, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ I don't have words to fully express my sympathy to Hwa's family or capture my sorrow at losing my dear friend. I have continually been inspired by Hwa's strength, resilience, and positivity with which she faced every obstacle. I will dearly miss her.

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**Julie Churchill** - May 11, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ I am sorry sorry for your death. You were a beautiful and wonderful person and colleague.

We all will miss you.

Regards,

Jim Collins

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James Collins - May 11, 2023 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ My heart is heavy hearing of the loss of Dr Choi. She was an amazing teacher and inspiration. I will forever be thankful for the opportunity to travel with her to China and Korea as a vet student to better understand application of Eastern Medicine I was also honored to meet Kami on this trip and my heart breaks for her and the rest of Dr Choi's family.

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Robinette Dunahugh-Ralston - May 11, 2023 at 12:00 AM

EQ

“ I am truly grateful to have known and worked alongside, Dr. Choi. She was a dear colleague and friend. I cannot put into words how much she impacted my life, but she left an everlasting impression on it. I will miss her greatly. Thinking of Kami during this time... and in those to come. <3

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Emily Metz Quandt - May 11, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ *Dr. Choi was a dear person and will be greatly missed.* ”



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**Kathleen Stuebner** - May 11, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ *Let her candle continue to burn brightly as did her dedication to patients, and her grace with colleagues. She will be missed.* ”

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**Margaret Duxbury** - May 11, 2023 at 12:00 AM