



Thomas H. Rainville

(October 27, 1930 - March 3, 2026)

Thomas H. Rainville's life spanned nearly a century, marked by resilience, professional achievement, and unwavering community dedication. Born on October 27, 1930, in the small town of Deer Lodge, Montana, to Hector and Margaret Rainville, Tom—as he was affectionately known—grew up amid the rugged landscapes of the American West. He was the youngest of five siblings: Cleo, Robert, Jeanette, and George. His early years were shaped by hard work and family, and he attended St. Mary's Academy and Powell County High School, where he first met his future wife, Mary Davis Watson (later Rainville). After high school, he briefly worked for the Milwaukee Railroad, a common entry into the workforce for young Montanans of his era, before enlisting in the U.S. Army. Serving during the Korean War, he rose to the rank of Second Lieutenant, an experience that instilled discipline and leadership qualities that would define his career.

After the military, Rainville pursued higher education at the University of Montana, graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Business, majoring in Accounting. This degree opened doors to the financial world, starting with his own private accounting practice in Deer Lodge. He soon transitioned to banking, joining the Deer Lodge Bank and Trust Company, where he honed his skills in financial management and community lending. His career gained momentum when he moved to the First National Bank of Great Falls in Montana, where he took on increasingly complex roles in operations and executive decision-making.

In the mid-1960s, seeking new opportunities, Rainville relocated to Everett, Washington—a move that would anchor him in the Pacific Northwest for the remainder of his life. He began as Cashier at the Bank of Everett, a position akin to a chief financial officer in modern terms. His expertise and vision propelled him to Chief Executive Officer, where he oversaw the bank's growth during a period of economic expansion in the region. When the Bank of Everett merged with Rainier National Bank, Rainville adapted seamlessly, serving as Senior Vice President and contributing to broader regional banking strategies.

Undeterred by the merger, Rainville's entrepreneurial drive led him to found American First National Bank, where he served as Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and President. This institution focused on serving local communities, reflecting his belief in accessible banking. Beyond his direct roles, he represented Washington state in the Independent Bankers Association of America, advocating for independent banks nationwide. He was also a founding director of the Washington Intermediate School of Bankers, an educational initiative to train the next generation of banking professionals. His career exemplified the evolution of American banking from post-war stability to the competitive landscapes of the late 20th century.

On a personal front, Rainville's life was enriched by family. He married Margaret Steinberger on October 30, 1954, adopting her three daughters—Jody, Billie Kay (who predeceased him), and Margaret—and together they had two more children, Ross (married to Dian) and Renee (married to Ken). The family provided a stable foundation amid his demanding career. Tragically, Margaret passed away in 1985, leaving a void that Rainville filled by reconnecting with his high school acquaintance, Mary Davis Watson Joy. They married in May 1986 at Saint John Mission in Mukilteo, Washington, in a ceremony that included all seven of their children from previous marriages. Davis, born July 27, 1933, in Bozeman, Montana, brought her daughters Janne and Jannette into the fold. A registered dietitian, Davis had a vibrant career, including roles at hospitals in Billings, Montana, and George Washington University Hospital in Washington, D.C., where she specialized in oncology, AIDS care, and maternal nutrition counseling through the WIC program.

The couple settled in Mukilteo, where they built a life of shared interests. Davis was deeply involved in community groups such as the Assistance League of Everett, P.E.O. Sisterhood, Master Gardeners, and various clubs including bridge and gourmet. Together, they traveled extensively for Rotary International, visiting destinations worldwide to support humanitarian projects in District 5050, which spans parts of Washington and British Columbia. Their marriage blended not only families but also a commitment to service, culminating in the establishment of the Thomas and Davis Rainville Endowment Fund through the Everett Rotary Club. Davis passed away on December 15, 2023, after a life of her own accomplishments, including leadership in the Girl Scouts and Presbyterian Church. Rainville is survived by his children, 10 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren, a testament to the expansive family legacy he nurtured.

Rainville's civic engagement was perhaps his most enduring contribution. Rotary International became a cornerstone of his life when he joined the Rotary Club of Everett. He served as Club President, leading initiatives that boosted membership and fundraising, notably increasing Paul Harris Fellows from a handful to over a dozen during his tenure. In 1987-88, he was elected District Governor for Rotary District 5050, overseeing clubs across the U.S.-Canada border and representing the district at the international Council on Legislation. His service earned him the Citation for Meritorious Service in 1994-95, recognizing his exceptional contributions to Rotary's global mission of peace and humanitarian aid.

His board service extended to healthcare and insurance sectors, including the General Hospital Foundation (which he helped organize), Providence Hospital, Snohomish County Physicians Corporation, King County Medical Blue Shield, Regence Group Blue Shield, Puget Sound Kidney Center, Cascade Bank, and Washington Physician Service. These roles influenced healthcare access and policy in the region. In the nonprofit arena, Rainville supported youth development through the Boy Scouts, Big Brothers, and Junior Achievement; disaster relief via the Red Cross; community wellness with the YMCA and American Cancer Society; and more. His involvement in the Everett Rotary's centennial celebrations and ongoing programs, such as youth exchanges and polio eradication efforts, highlighted his forward-thinking approach.

Even in later years, Rainville remained active. Everett Rotary honored him in 2024 for his past leadership, and club bulletins frequently noted his anniversaries and contributions, such as his 30th wedding anniversary in 2016 and participation in events through the 2020s. His home in Mukilteo, where he lived until he was 95, was a hub for family gatherings until his peaceful passing on March 3, 2026.

Rainville's story is one of quiet determination—from Montana's small-town origins to executive suites and international service. He embodied the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self," leaving a legacy of strengthened communities and inspired individuals. In lieu of flowers, contributions to the Everett Rotary Club's Thomas and Davis Rainville Endowment Fund honor his memory.