

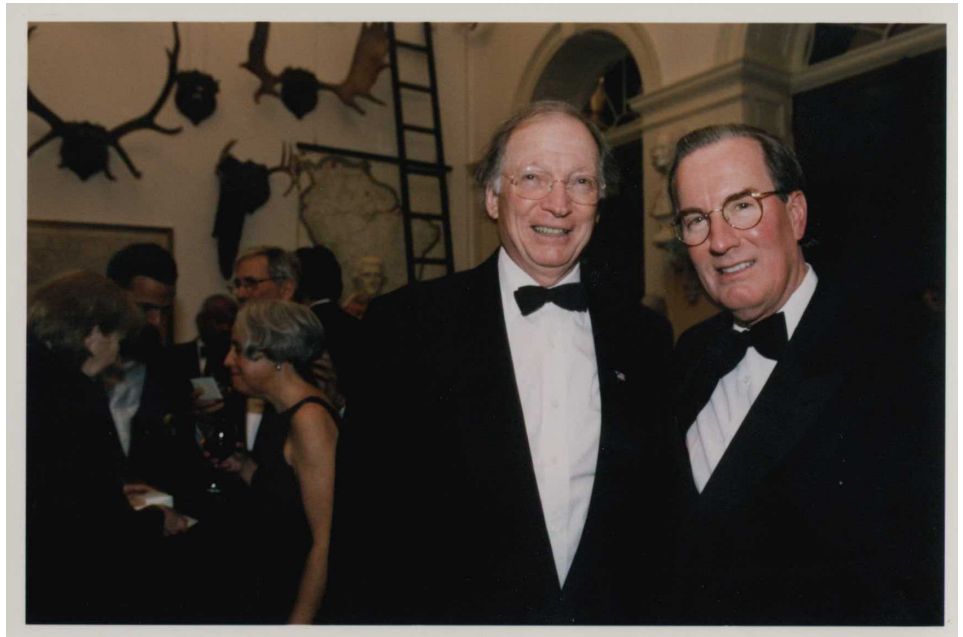
# Remembering Thomas A. Saunders III, 1936–2022

It is with heavy hearts that we share the September 9 passing of former Thomas Jefferson Foundation Trustee and Board Chairman Thomas A. Saunders III.

Saunders was a member of the Monticello Board of Trustees for over a decade, from 1997 to 2008. He was elected to the board in 1997 and became chairman in January 2002. He also provided critical support for scholarly efforts at Monticello. He and his wife, Jordan, endowed the position of the Saunders Director of the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies, currently held by historian Andrew O'Shaughnessy. Saunders also provided essential support for the publication of *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson: Retirement Series*. To date, 18 volumes have gone to print, aiding scholars around the world.

Numerous other initiatives at Monticello were made possible through his generosity. Highlights include the completion of the Thomas Jefferson Parkway, the Saunders Bridge and the Saunders-Monticello Trail. Today the trail is one of the most popular hiking trails in central Virginia, hosting more than 150,000 walks annually. Saunders also led efforts for the acquisition of Montalto, Thomas Jefferson's "high mountain," overlooking Monticello.

"Mr. Saunders always valued and modeled vision, to the immeasurable benefit of Monticello," says Leslie Greene Bowman, president of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation. "He continued to be a friend and adviser to us and never ceased thinking about ways to advance our mission."



▲ Saunders (left) with fellow Monticello Trustee John F. Cooke in the Monticello Entrance Hall in 2003.

▲ Saunders and his wife, Jordan, at the plaque unveiling ceremony for the Saunders-Monticello Trail in 2002.

◀ Saunders breaking champagne on the Saunders Bridge at the dedication ceremony in November 2002.