



Atrium  
Medical Center

F O U N D A T I O N

# LEGENDS

**FROM THE HILL TO THE ATRIUM**

*A Tribute to the Men and Women  
Who Made It Happen*

ISSUE 26

*W. Thomas Scott, MD*

*Ask Dr. Tom Scott to reflect on his long, rich life, and he'll speak with gratitude for the patients he helped. You'll also hear about fantastic adventures, heartache, and a magical childhood. This is his story.*

The adventures of W. Thomas Scott began just north of Cincinnati in the city of Wyoming, where he spent his early years riding horses, roaming the woods, and even selling war bonds with the Matthews girls. In the stifling heat of summer, the girls' dad, a family physician, left the windows open at his nearby clinic. Young Tom sometimes caught riveting glimpses of tonsils

being removed and limbs being cast. By age 12, he yearned to be a doctor.

“Fortunately, God gave me the ability to make that happen,” says Dr. Scott, who graduated from University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in the top 10% of his class. Having deferred military service while in school, the new Dr. Scott headed to Fort Sam Houston Army Base.

“Our division headquarters got a request for a doctor to travel to Normandy to care for our troops who got injured or sick during the filming of “The Longest Day.” It turned out to be a great experience,” he says.

Surrounded by a star-studded cast, including John Wayne and Henry Fonda, Dr. Scott became close friends with lesser-known actors,



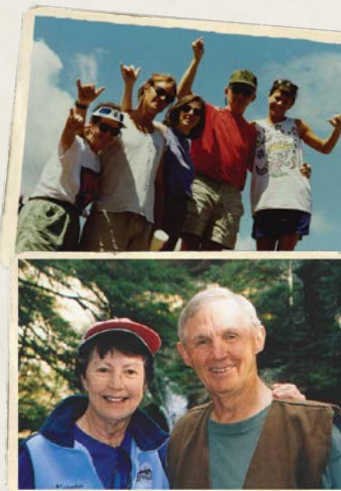
including Robert Wagner, Paul Anka, and Fabian. He treated injuries (mostly minor) and appeared in a couple scenes at Pointe du Hoc.

## Marriage, Family, and Adventures

Years earlier, while still in medical school, Dr. Scott met Bonnie Garrison, who was working on her Bachelor of Nursing degree. Married in 1957, they later moved to Germany, where Dr. Scott was stationed and son Brad was born. Also born was Bonnie and Tom's thirst for adventure. Over their 60 years of marriage, the couple remained active well beyond their years.

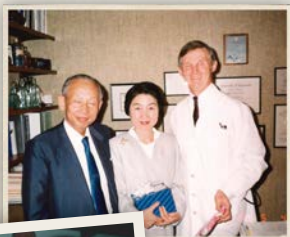
"Both our parents loved nature and loved sports," says daughter Kim, born when her parents returned to the states. "They were always looking for new opportunities to be outside. When we were kids, they bought a boat and learned to sail. They took us to Michigan where we all learned to ski. They loved biking, hiking, beach time on Kauai, golf, tennis, and more."

Back from Germany, Dr. Scott completed his internal medicine residency and gastroenterology fellowship at UC, then worked at UC as an assistant professor. Dr. Scott and the family came to Middletown when he accepted an offer to join Dr. Walter Roehll Jr. at a family practice established by his father, Dr. Walter Roehll Sr. While the family grew with the birth of daughter Gwen, the practice also expanded as Middletown exploded with economic development.



## As ARMCO Grows, So Grows Middletown Medical Associates

In 1966, just as Drs. Roehll, Scott, and other young physicians expanded Middletown Medical Associates, ARMCO announced a major expansion of its steel plant. “We had worried we might not have enough patients for the physicians in our growing practice,” Dr. Scott remembers.



When ARMCO partnered with a Japanese steel corporation, Japanese leaders and their families moved to Middletown. Dr. Scott and his partners cared for about 50 families — many speaking very little English — for several years.



The retiring Dr. Roehll Sr. urged the young physicians to make their medical practice a stand-alone, full-service clinic. Although available to treat any condition, each physician had a specialty, unique in the 1960s. Also unusual was their in-house imaging equipment, which was continually upgraded as technology improved, and their in-house lab that enabled faster results and a quicker diagnosis. They also hired physician assistants and nurse practitioners

before they were commonplace.

“We were a unique practice and ahead of our time,” says Dr. Scott proudly. “We were certified in our specialties, and everyone who worked for us was of the highest quality.”

## A String of Tragedies

Life for the Scott family was busy and adventurous, but not without heartbreak. In 1994, son Brad — whose carefree, thrill-seeking careers took him to Japan, Alaska, and the Arctic Circle — was left quadriplegic following a biking accident in Hawaii. After moving to Oahu to help Brad through rehab, Bonnie developed dementia, which stole her beautiful, upbeat spirit over many years. Bonnie passed away in November 2018, and Brad followed just one month later.

At age 82, Dr. Scott had a horrific accident while mowing grass on the family farm in Indiana. Dr. Scott credits his long-time friend, Bill Wooley, who was there that day with saving his life. A crushed pelvis and abdomen, six broken ribs, and an amputated leg left Dr. Scott hospitalized and in rehab for months. His miraculous recovery was only possible because of his excellent physical condition, and because a dear family friend, Julie Thomas, devoted herself to the sometimes grueling task of overseeing Dr. Scott's recovery. Thanks to her patience, high level of care, and dedication, Dr. Scott fully recovered and resumed many of his adventures with a prosthetic leg, including hikes at Yosemite and snowshoeing.

In 2017, Julie was honored with the region's "Caring Like Karen" award for her dedication to Dr. Scott's healing during his years of recovery. Ironically, four years earlier, Dr. Scott received the same award for the exemplary care he provided his patients during his 40 years as a physician.





## Reflections in Retirement



Dr. Scott had such a deep attachment for his patients that he often dedicated his afternoon off to visiting them when they were hospitalized. “That’s why I’m a terrible golfer,” he laughs, “But it was the only time I could really visit them. Some of them didn’t need medical expertise. They just needed someone to talk to.”

Eventually the desire for more time to himself and his family led Dr. Scott to retire in 2003 at age 70, which opened the door to fantastical adventures, including hiking the Dolomites; bicycling in France, Italy, and Ireland; and skiing the Rockies with his physician friends.



Dr. Scott spent these same decades serving the Foundation, hospital, and other organizations on boards and committees, and continued his long-time service and leadership at the First Presbyterian Church of

Middletown. The Scotts have supported the Foundation by giving the large blue spruce that graces the hospital’s main entrance; creating or co-creating endowments to support the hospital’s outdoor features and continuing education for Atrium’s nurses; and including the Foundation



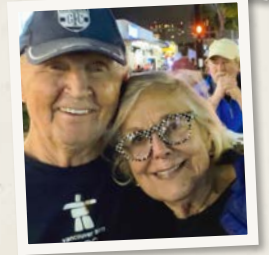
in their estate plans as members of the Heritage Society. In 2016, Atrium Medical Center’s medical staff honored Dr. Scott as a Physician Hero for his commitment to building a healthier community.

Now at age 90, Dr. Scott and Julie continue the close relationship formed when she helped him heal. “She’s a remarkable woman and such an important part of my life,” he says fondly. They enjoy their Middletown home and five acres of land, where you’ll find Julie gardening and him tending to the lawn and woods. Visiting frequently are Dr. Scott’s daughters, Gwen and Kim, and granddaughter Sophia; and Julie’s children: Marty; Ben; Shelly; Laurie; and Amy.

Ask Dr. Scott to reflect on his four decades in practice, and he replies:

*“I was truly blessed with such a nice group of people to take care of. I felt as if they cared about me as much as I cared about them. I have so many fond memories of the camaraderie among the physicians and administrators at Middletown Regional Hospital. And I’m so proud we took the hospital to the next level by building Atrium Medical Center. It was the right thing to do for our patients.”*

We can safely say that our community has been equally blessed by Dr. Scott’s caring, courage, and compassion during his remarkable life of service and adventure.



This article is the 26th in a series of profiles celebrating the 2017 centennial anniversary of Atrium Medical Center (formerly Middletown Hospital and Middletown Regional Hospital). The series honors the men and women whose civic-mindedness and genuine caring for others helped Greater Middletown grow and contributed to the first-class medical center the region boasts today.

**Past Legends focused on:** Paul Galeese, Issue 1; E.O. Bauer, MD, and John L. Bauer, MD, Issue 2; Educating Our Caregivers, Issue 3; Russell L. "Rusty" Malcolm, MD, and Albert S. Malcolm, MD, Issue 4; Ann and Arthur Bidwell, Issue 5; Atrium Auxiliary Middletown, Issue 6; Dr. Dick and Charlotte Nisbet, Issue 7; The Wilbur Cohen Family, Issue 8; Middletown Area Federation of Women's Clubs, Issue 9; Dolly Frieman Casper, Issue 10; The Sawyer Family, Issue 11; Southwest Ohio Businesses, Issue 12; Dr. Raymond and Jean Anne Kiefhaber, Issue 13; Richard "Dick" Stagle, Issue 14; Celebrating 100 Years, Issue 15; The Levey Family, Issue 16; Walter H. Roehl Jr., MD, Issue 17; Atrium Medical Center Foundation, Issue 18; The Briel Family, Issue 19; Our Medical Staff, Issue 20; William Dwain Langworthy, MD, Issue 21 The Chapple Family, Issue 22; Roger and Virginia Dillman, Issue 23; Dr. Louis Skimming Sr. and Dr. Louis Skimming Jr., Issue 24; and Annual Estate & Tax Planning Professional Seminar, Issue 25.

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