

REMEMBERING DR. PETER ROTOLO

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PHOTOS BY FRANK CURRAN PHOTOGRAPHY

(From L-R) Winchester Hospital President Al Campbell, Maureen and Peter Rotolo and Joyce and Bill Cummings

Dr. Peter Rotolo Labor and Delivery Unit



Winchester lost an extraordinary resident on February 24 with the passing of Dr. Peter Rotolo at the age of 79. Less than a month earlier, co-workers, family and friends had gathered to honor the esteemed obstetrician and gynecologist as his legacy was memorialized in Winchester Hospital's newly christened Dr. Peter Rotolo Labor & Delivery Unit, with renovations to the unit made possible by a generous \$2.5 million donation from the Cummings Foundation.

Dr. Rotolo's profound impact began 41 years ago when he embarked on his career in obstetrics. Over the

decades, he delivered thousands of babies and served on Winchester Hospital's Board of Trustees from 2008 to 2022. He was the president of the Medical Staff from 1995 to 1997 and Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology from 1997 to 2006.

Dr. Rotolo began his pre-med studies at Seton Hall before transferring to St. John's University, where he graduated in 1966. He earned his M.D. from the New Jersey College of Medicine in 1970. Initially, he aspired to become a pediatrician, but his career path took a turn during his residency at New Britain General

Hospital in the early 1970s. Asked to assist a mother in labor with her seventh child, Dr. Rotolo discovered a passion for obstetrics, inspiring him to switch fields.

Growing up on Long Island as the oldest of four children, Dr. Rotolo taught himself to play guitar and formed The Pike County Trio with his brother and a friend. Later, he formed The Round Sound, performing around greater New York with the group in the late 1960s and early 1970s. During this period, he married his high school sweetheart, Maureen Myrick, and the couple moved to East Orange, New



The Rotolo family

Jersey, where he completed his final two years of medical school.

While serving as a Navy lieutenant in Maryland in the mid-70s, Dr. Rotolo experienced two life-changing events: the birth of the couple's first child and meeting his future practice partner, Dr. Francis Lombardo. Dr. Rotolo described Dr. Lombardo as "a forward-thinking, compassionate person" and exactly the kind of person he wanted to work with. In 1976, he joined Dr. Lombardo at his Burlington Ob/Gyn practice, which led the young family to settle in Winchester where they raised their four children.

Despite his busy schedule, Dr. Rotolo found time to volunteer as a soccer coach and parent coordinator with the Boy Scouts when his children were young. He continued making music with his siblings and sang with a barbershop quartet for many years. After retiring, he enjoyed traveling and spending time with the eight couples that make up the Share Group, cherishing relationships that had been formed over 35 years ago.

Dr. Rotolo considered himself a primary care provider for women but found all aspects of his practice, including gynecological surgery, to be "extremely fulfilling." Having spent

most of his adult life at Winchester Hospital, he chose to express his deep attachment to the institution simply by saying that he "loved the place."

During our conversation before his passing, Dr. Rotolo expressed how deeply honored he felt by the naming of the unit, conveying his "overwhelming gratitude to the Cummings Foundation for doing what needed to be done for Winchester Hospital." Described by many as a "gentle giant" and "the kindest soul," Dr. Rotolo took great pleasure in encountering the mothers and children he had cared for over the years. "I think it's wonderful that they remember me."