

DEVOTED Patient Insists on TMC Care, Even in California



Though she was in California, Shirley Estes wasted no time getting to Tucson Medical Center when she broke her hip.

She wouldn't have had it any other way.

"Never have I had the kind of care as I did there," says the prominent Tucsonan, whose late husband, Bill, built Loews Ventana Canyon Resort and more than 40,000 homes across Arizona. "From the nursing staff to the cleaning staff, they were absolutely perfect. They almost anticipated every need I had."

Estes had previous experience at TMC, when she broke her hip the first time, a year ago. She was walking and stepped off the sidewalk to let someone by. Her toe caught the edge and she fell down hard on her hip. Estes asked a physician friend for a referral and found her way to orthopedic surgeon Dr. John J. Wild, Jr.

"He was very sympathetic and understanding," she recalls.

"He wants you up and about, and I'm the kind of person who wants to be up and about."

When she broke her hip this summer, it was an easy decision for her to return. In the 11th inning of a San Diego Padres game, Estes hurried to the bathroom, but ran into a guy on the stairs on her way back up to her seat. "I went down like a rock," she says. "But I got right up and went back to my seat. I didn't think it was broken. But when I tried to stand up again, I knew something was wrong."

The ushers and paramedics carried her down to the first aid office in the stadium and soon she was on her way to Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla. Having summered in San Diego for years, Estes had been to Scripps before with her husband in the last years of his life. So,



TMC Emergency Department



John J. Wild, Jr., MD



Shirley Estes

she knew the procedure for getting a Medevac to return to Tucson. "I Medevac'd myself back to Tucson because not only did I want my surgeon to do the job, but I would have family here to care for me afterward," she says. "It worked out very well. It happened on a Friday night and I was in Tucson by 4 p.m. Saturday. Sunday morning I had the surgery and it was over."

In fact, Estes was so grateful for the care she received at Tucson Medical Center, she sent over food for the doctors and nurses afterward. "I so appreciated their care," she says. "I am already walking around again."

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