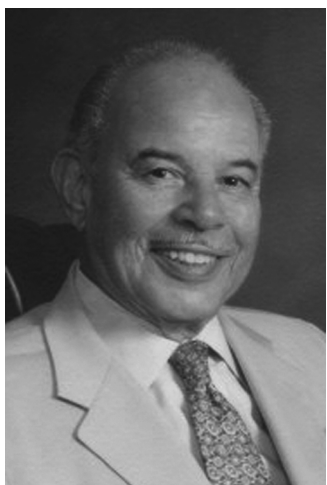


In Memoriam

Calvin Ross Scott, 1922–2015



As noted below, our field lost a quiet, steadfast, and gentle man with the passing of Calvin Scott, or “Scottie” as he was known to many. He served as American Society of Extracorporeal Technology (AmSECT)’s president in the late 1970s during the society’s formative years. Calvin was always calm and reassuring both in demeanor and voice, which was so typical of his character. He had the distinction of serving as one of the first directors of the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion when it was founded in 1975. He also had a wide group of dedicated friends in San Antonio, Houston, and Los Angeles where he had worked for much of his career. He grew up in Houston and began college at Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX, where he was a member of the Reserve Corps. Calvin subsequently graduated from Howard University after serving with an elite group of soldiers known as “the Prometheans” in the U.S. Army Service Unit during World War II.

He regularly followed news of the profession in his retirement years, and treasured his attendance at the AmSECT Pioneer Gala in 2012, when he was able to revisit with many of his colleagues from years past. Calvin and Maddie Massengale-Beall had a special friendship and would often talk by telephone, and it was truly a delight to see them together at the festivities in 2012 (Figure 1). Most recently, Calvin attended a formal dinner in San Antonio where perfusionists had gathered. One of

the more touching memories of that evening was to see many of the younger generation greeting Calvin to simply shake his hand and express their appreciation to him for his contributions to the profession.

Words from Jeri Dobbs: “Who was Calvin Scott? He became your good friend the minute you were first introduced. He always referred to you as his good friend. He was everyone’s friend. He was always referred to as a ‘Gentleman.’ He was someone you could rely upon for levelheaded advice. Scottie was an early pioneer in the formation and development of AmSECT. He was one of the leaders in the development of perfusion education. He realized the importance of good training for perfusionists. He worked to develop certification testing and the American Board. He served on numerous committees in AmSECT and never hesitated to volunteer when asked to serve. Scottie was always a gentle and calming influence in any meeting. We can all be grateful that Calvin Scott was there to help guide us through AmSECT’s development.”

Words from LeRoy Ferries: “*In Memory of Calvin Scott*. It is with a sad heart that I sit here trying to come up with words to pay proper respect to my good friend Mr. Calvin Scott, ‘Scottie.’ My wife Julie and I first met Scottie at an AmSECT meeting many, many years ago. We became instant friends, which remained all the years, even though we live in northern Wisconsin. He was always going to come up and visit, but was never able. He was only going to come when it wasn’t cold—guess we weren’t able to guaranty him which day that might be. Scottie was the consummate gentleman at all times. He always conducted himself in a manner and spoke with such gentleness, that anyone would feel comfortable in his presence. And as we all know, when he put pen to paper, he generally came up with words that made one grab for the Webster. Scottie represented AmSECT the very same way. At the time he was elected President-elect and later President, the second African-American AmSECT president, the society’s political climate was going through some rather turbulent growing pains, as was the country in general. You would never know it by the way Scottie rallied the membership and moved the profession forward. Scottie loved AmSECT and the opportunity at meetings to catch up with old friends. Meetings were always such a

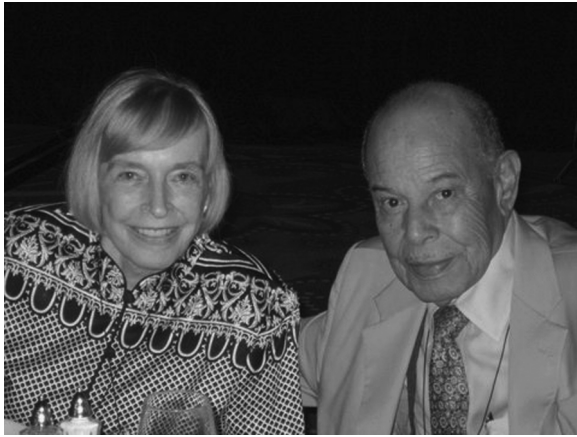


Figure 1. Photo of Maddie and Calvin in 2012.

joy to get together with Scottie, Maddie and others. We would always talk about how far perfusion had come technologically, as well as professionally. It was truly a joy and now a blessing that my wife and I were able to spend quality time with Scottie and Maddie at the AmSECT Pioneer Gala in 2012. Scottie was a good man and a good American. He willingly served his country and his profession. He gave a lot to AmSECT and the perfusion profession and loved every minute of it. The membership would do Mr. Calvin Scott proud by following in his footsteps. I can only imagine that Scottie and Maddie are together right now conjuring up some way for an afterlife perfusionist meeting. We have lost a good friend—AmSECT/perfusion has lost a great leader—the world has lost a real gentleman and God has gained a great man!”

Words from Robert Groom: “The biosketch for Calvin that was used during the Pioneer Gala held in 2012 is a good way to begin summarizing who this remarkable man was. It reads, ‘Calvin R. Scott is a veteran of World War II who saw action in France shortly after the D-Day invasion. Like many of the early pioneers, he aspired to go to medical school, but when this was not realized, he became a laboratory technician at Fort Benning, GA. In the late 1950s he transferred to the Veteran’s Administration in Los Angeles, CA, and became involved in perfusion. Acquaintances of Calvin know him as the consummate gentleman to all he meets and a loyal friend to many. But those that have known him for many decades will tell you much more. Calvin was instrumental in the birth of the perfusion society and the establishment of credentialing for perfusionists in the United States. He was one of that handful of founding members of AmSECT. He was one of the first directors of the American Board of Cardiovascular

Perfusion.’ Calvin went on to serve over many years in the Society and was president of AmSECT during some of the most tumultuous years in its history, 1979 and 1980. These years were marked by harsh criticism (described by Calvin as opinions that were neither subtle nor placated), disillusionment, and the exodus of some of AmSECT’s key leaders. Calvin’s leadership during those years was formidable. Two presidential addresses penned by Calvin are recorded in the *Journal of ExtraCorporeal Technology* and provide insight into his character (1,2). He encouraged the Society to look forward to the coming year with renewed enthusiasm. At the same time he had the courage to reflect on the errors of the past with an aim to improve in the future. He made the observation that members of the Society have an obligation to be critical; however, he believed criticism must be followed with engagement to effect change through participation. History will be kind to Calvin because he understood history. He once wrote, ‘As reference is made to history, the history should be exact, sincere, impartial, and free from passion. It should be unbiased by personal interests, fear, resentment, and unequivocally faithful to the truth—which is at the “heart” of history, the preserver of great actions, the enemy of oblivion, the witness to the past and director of the future.’ Calvin also wrote about the work of the Society: ‘It is incumbent upon the Society to be flexible in the sense that it continuously examine what is best for the future and select a course of action that may not have been applicable in previous years.’ Calvin’s contributions to the American Society of Extra-Corporeal Technology were immense. The words he penned in 1979 and 1980 remain a legacy of sound advice for all societies of cardiovascular perfusionists.”

In closing, we grieve the passing of this extraordinary man and express the wish that his example of a full life be remembered by those who would seek to make a difference in their profession.

Jeri Dobbs, CCP (Emeritus)
 LeRoy Ferries, CCP (Emeritus)
 Robert Groom, CCP, FPP
 Mark Kurusz, CCP (Emeritus)

REFERENCES

1. Scott CR. A word from the President. *J Extra Corpor Technol.* 1979;11:50.
2. Scott CR. Message from the President. *J Extra Corpor Technol.* 1980;12:37.