

GEORGE A. SNOOK MD
1925-

George Snook was born in 1925 in Boston, Massachusetts. He received his Bachelor of Science from the University of New Hampshire in 1948 and graduated Tufts College Medical School in 1952. He served as an Intern and Resident at the New England Medical Center from 1952 – 1954 and then specifically as an Intern and Resident in Orthopedic Surgery at Boston VA Hospital, Boston City Hospital, Lakeville Sanatorium, Massachusetts Hospital School from 1955 – 1957.

Dr. Snook then went on to Military Service from 1944-1946, where he served as surgical technician in the 165th General Hospital and later as a company aid man (medic) in the 45th Infantry Division and received the Bronze Star and the Combat Medical Badge. In the final stage of his career he worked in Private Practice in Northampton, MA from 1958 -1992.

From 1960 to 1992, Dr. Snook was orthopedic consultant and team physician at The University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA and also served as team physician to the Northampton High School football team. With his partner, Dr O. Donald Chrisman, he developed the use of a neck collar for lateral flexion neck injuries later known as “the burner”. They also developed the operation to repair chronic instability of the ankle which remains one of the major treatments of this condition. In his practice of sports medicine, Dr. Snook performed some of the early studies in runner’s injuries including operations to relieve peritendinitis of the Achilles tendon, and compartment syndrome of the lower legs. He also initiated studies on injuries in women’s gymnastics and in intercollegiate wrestling. He served several years as the Tournament Physician for the New England University Wrestling Association.

Dr. Snook was a founding member of the AOSSM and served as President from 1987-1988. He also served as Chair of the AOSSM Publications Committee. He initiated the Asian branch of the Traveling Fellowship with Dr Sempo Takatsuki of Japan and with the further assistance of Dr Bernard Cahill, the program was expanded to include the Pacific Rim Countries. He was the First Godfather of this branch, and was also the Chair of the Traveling Fellowship Committee.

Dr Snook was Chief of Orthopedics of the Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton and was President of the Hospital Staff from 1983-1985. He has made over 122 medical presentations and published 34 publications, 8 chapters in books, 1 movie, and several other projects including 2 exhibits. He was a lecturer in orthopedics at the University of Connecticut Medical School and served as a volunteer surgeon in Orthopedics Overseas in Afghanistan in 1970. He was a fencing coach for the Northampton YMCA for several years.

Dr. Snook's honors include Mr. Sports Medicine from AOSSM in 1992, Man of the Year from The New England Intercollegiate Wrestling Association in 1972 and a Distinguished Service Award from the NEUWA in 1998. He is also an honorary member of the Japanese Orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine.

In addition to his medical career, Dr. Snook has published 32 papers in history, one monograph, and has been a Guest Lecturer at the U S Military Academy at West Point. He was the President of the Company of Military Historians from 1987 – 1989 and received their Distinguished Service Award in 1998. He is the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Library and Museum and a Trustee of Historic Northampton.