

Healthy You

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A PASSION FOR BETTER MEDICINE.™

 **Lehigh Valley Health Network**

Let the Good Times Roll

William Rombin is traveling again after defeating cancer



William Rombin and Janet Fortune (left) never share a cross word. “We just have a good time together,” Rombin says of his “significant other.” They first met in 1944, remained friends through the years, widowed and then reconnected 10 years ago.

Fortune’s support helped Rombin survive the toughest battle of his life. It began last year when the 88-year-old Walnutport man had difficulty swallowing. Doctors first thought it was indigestion, but the pain remained. “I know when I feel right and when I don’t,” Rombin says.

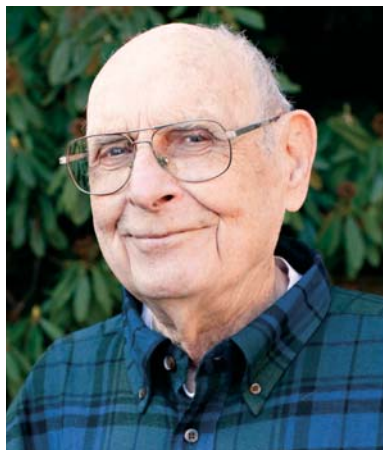
So he turned to gastroenterologist Charles Brooks, MD, with Lehigh Valley Health Network. Brooks performed a biopsy and delivered another diagnosis—esophageal cancer. Rombin didn’t let it get him down. “I lead a very active life,” he says. “I’ve been many things in this world, but dead wasn’t going to be one of them.”

To fight cancer, Rombin received chemotherapy under the care of health network hematologist-oncologist Eliot Friedman, MD, and radiation therapy from health network radiation oncologist Charles Andrews, MD.

To completely remove his tumor, health network surgeons Michael Szwerc, MD, and Daniel Harrison, DO, performed small scar surgery using the da Vinci® robotic surgical system. It allows surgeons to perform complex and delicate surgery with unmatched precision. Patients have less pain, go home sooner and recover faster than with traditional surgery.

Rombin’s physicians had no doubt he was a perfect candidate for robotic surgery. “Bill is extremely active and robust for his age,” Szwerc says. “He acts and lives life as if he were 20 years younger. We were comfortable offering trimodality therapy (chemotherapy, radiation therapy and surgery) for his tumor, especially since he was a candidate for a minimally invasive surgical procedure.”

Rombin recovered quickly and feels better. “I have nothing but respect for the health network and my doctors,” he says. Best of all, he’s back traveling with Fortune and laughing every day. “I have a lot of living left to do,” he says.



How NCCCP Enhances Cancer Care

Lehigh Valley Health Network’s Cancer Center is one of only 30 sites nationwide (and the only one in the region) that’s part of the National Cancer Institute Community Cancer Centers Program (NCCCP). This program enhances the cancer care offered at Lehigh Valley Health Network. Here’s how:

- It gives you access to more clinical trials.
- It encourages your doctors and caregivers to work as a team.
- It helps you navigate your cancer care.
- It makes it easier for you to get the care you need.
- It enables us to reach our underserved community more effectively.

Next Step: *Learn more about cancer care and robotic surgery. Visit lvhn.org/healthyyou or call 610-402-CARE.*
