



### **Dr. Timothy N. Taft, MD**

While he has been called a “behind-the-scenes, unsung hero,” Dr. Timothy N. (“Tim”) Taft has made a large impact in the community he has quietly served for many years in a variety of roles. When asked what he has enjoyed most during his career, Dr. Taft responded that he most enjoys working with young people. He said that it has been most gratifying seeing young adults in our community and university grow and become contributing adults in our community and our world.

Over the years, Tim Taft has worked on programs and projects with many of the town and gown luminaries, including all the UNC Chancellors since Ferebee Taylor, Bill Friday, Orville Campbell, Dean Smith, Hugh Morton, Medical School division head Frank Wilson, several Medical School deans and many others. In 2009 Taft was awarded the Massey Service Award that recognizes University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill employees each year for unusual, meritorious or superior contributions

Tim Taft has been very active in Boy Scouts since a young man. He even attended Princeton on a Boy Scout scholarship. He also has received the Distinguished Eagle Scout award from the Boy Scouts of America National Court of Honor

Dr. Taft was a Scoutmaster in Chapel Hill for many years and is still very active in the organization. He participated in an Eagle Scout ceremony the day before his Town Treasures interview.

He also returned from a National Boy Scout Jamboree just a few days before his Town Treasures interview. His skills as a Boy Scout leader and physician were put to use there. Working with Boy Scouts nationally put him in touch with many national celebrities and heroes such as Neil Armstrong and Steven Spielberg.

Dr. Taft served as team physician for several Team USA teams. He was Team Physician for the Olympic Games, Track & Field Venue, 1996; US Swimming Team, World Junior Championships, 1995; USA Basketball Team, Jones Cup, 1994; USA Basketball Team, World Championships, 1990; USA Basketball Team, Good Will Games, 1990

Taft has been very active in the Special Olympics program. He helped coordinate the Special Olympics World Games that was held in the Research Triangle in the summer of 1999. He served as the medical director for this event.

Dr. Taft is probably best known as director of the UNC Sports Medicine program. He was a founder of the pioneering UNC Sports Medicine Program. This program was designed to take care of the special needs of young athletes and to provide health care programs and treatments for these individuals. The Sports medicine program has grown to look after the health care needs for all the students on the UNC campus.

This program was soon emulated by other colleges and universities because of the importance of keeping these young adults healthy and allowing them to expand their physical skills.

His hope for this community is that we can become more civil to each other, particularly in regard to a lot of fractious feelings swirling around many current social issues. We need to learn to look at other people's ideas and explore ways to better cooperate.