

A Gift from the Heart: Honoring Ruth S. Bunn



In the newly renovated Heart and Vascular Center at Augusta Health, a conference room with sweeping mountain views serves as far more than a typical meeting space. Recently dedicated by Dr. Christopher Bunn and Mr. Enrique Canales, the new Ruth Stoneman Bunn Conference Room stands as a testament to family legacy, service to the community, and the future of cardiovascular care in the region.

The room's namesake, Ruth S. Bunn, was not only Dr. Bunn's grandmother – she was his inspiration. Growing up, Dr. Bunn witnessed firsthand the challenges his grandmother faced living in a rural area with limited access to quality healthcare. Despite her struggles with heart disease, Ruth's spirit endured and her memory has left a lasting impression on her grandson.

"My grandmother's experience shaped my entire career path," explains Dr. Bunn, who now serves as head of heart failure at Augusta Health. "Watching her navigate heart disease with such dignity despite the obstacles she faced inspired me to become a cardiac physician focused on bringing high-quality care to underserved communities."

This conference room's dedication goes far beyond a plaque on the wall—it's a reflection of Dr. Bunn and Mr. Canales' shared commitment to the Augusta Health community. While Dr. Bunn leads efforts in treating coronary artery disease and other cardiac conditions, Canales has established himself as a dedicated community volunteer. Together, their gift represents an investment in the program's future.

"We wanted to create something permanent that speaks to the heart of what this center is all about," says Canales. "This conference room is where care teams come together to collaborate, learn, and lead. Having Ruth's name here reminds everyone of the deeply personal nature of treating our neighbors and friends."

Indeed, every patient who enters the Center is treated like family – a philosophy that is important to the entire Heart & Vascular team and makes the nationally-recognized cardiac care at Augusta Health truly special. "In a large rural area like ours, having access to this level of cardiovascular care is truly extraordinary," notes Dr. Bunn. "My grandmother would be proud to see how we're making sure that today's patients don't face the same barriers to quality care that she did."

The timing of this dedication serves as a powerful reminder of the Augusta Health Heart and Vascular Center's enduring mission. As the Center continues to evolve and grow, the Ruth S. Bunn Conference Room is where the future of local cardiovascular care continues to take shape, built on a foundation of personal connection and excellence that will serve the community for generations to come.

