

TOM SMOOT, JR.
Southwest Florida Community Foundation

As early as 1969, Tom Smoot together with representatives of the three local banks with trust departments began the task of creating a community foundation for the Southwest Florida area. Because the I.R.S. regulations affecting community foundations had not been promulgated, the Foundation would not come into formal existence until 1976.

Born in Fort Myers, where he attended school and graduated from Fort Myers Senior High, Tom attended the University of Florida where he obtained his BSBA followed by a law degree. He returned to Fort Myers to begin his career in law.

Though practicing law full-time for 46 years, Tom served as one of the Foundation's early Chairman; and he has been a director until 2008 when he moved to Senior Advisory status. Elsewhere in the Fort Myers area he has served in various capacities:

- Chamber of Commerce – Director and past president.
- Salvation Army Advisory Board member - past chairman and now life member.
- Edison Ford Winter Estates – board member and past chairman.
- Lee County Bar Association – past president.
- First United Methodist Church –
- Charles Edison Fund – Trustee

Now semi retired, Tom is “of Counsel” at his son’s law firm. He is the author of *The Edisons of Fort Myers, Discoveries of the Heart* and lectures on that subject at the Edison Ford Winter Estates and to other groups in the area.

Tom is the recipient of the John W. Sheppard Award for Selfless Dedication to Humanity, the American Red Cross Clara Barton Award and the Uncommon Friends Honorary Lifetime Member Award.