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Larry Adair enters his 1970 Pontiac GTO, "The Judge," in area car competitions.

"LUCKY" LARRY

The walls of Larry Adair's garage are lined with collectible Hot Wheels cars. He is the proud owner of a 1990 Firebird.



Dr. Nora Royer
Surgeon
Mercy General Surgery Clinic

And, he enters his prized 1970 Pontiac GTO "The Judge" in area car competitions – and wins! Larry, 68, clearly has a passion for cars. Ironically, it was a car accident that resulted in his life-threatening injuries.

While driving on Feb. 1, 2013, Larry hit an icy patch and slid sideways down a busy street. An oncoming SUV hit his car, directly impacting the driver's seat.

The airbags went off and, when OnStar asked if he needed an ambulance, the answer was a resounding "YES." In what seemed like an instant, Area Ambulance was on the scene. Luckily, his passengers, his grandson and wife, Nancy, were not severely injured. But Larry was.

"The next thing I knew they were loading me into an ambulance. There was so much pain in my left side," remembers Larry. "Once I got to the hospital, I saw my son and aunt and uncle there. That's all I remember until I woke up in ICC (Intensive Care Center) two days after my surgery."

Nora Royer, MD, was the surgeon on call that day. Dr. Royer is from Mercy General Surgery Clinic, a collaborative initiative between Mercy and UI Health Care, comprised of University of Iowa Department of Surgery faculty members.

"Larry was immediately evaluated and I was called due to concern for severe traumatic injury," explains Dr. Royer. "He was found to have torn part of his colon from its blood supply and was unstable with very low blood pressure

and hemoglobin. He went directly to the OR from the ER for emergency surgery."

His injuries were so severe that another Mercy surgeon, Dr. Vincent Reid, was called in to help. Larry also needed help from the Linn County Blood Bank due to his extensive blood loss.

"Dr. Reid came to help with the surgery, due to how sick Larry was, as part of our surgical team to get him out of the operating room quickly," explains Dr. Royer. "Working together with the blood bank, anesthesia, the surgical support staff and our surgical team, we had Larry's problems corrected within a very short time."

Larry had an ostomy, a surgical procedure to create an artificial opening for collecting waste. The procedure was reversed about four months later.

One thing Larry does remember from his hospital experience is a hospital visit by Dr. Reid. "He said, 'Hi Lucky,' because I was lucky to be alive," says Larry.

A self-proclaimed "smart ass," Larry says, "All the nurses were super. I liked to joke with them. One night a nurse came in and asked my name (standard safety protocol as part of Mercy's Two Patient Identifier initiative). I said 'Dr. Spock.' Then she said 'I don't have any pain medication for Dr. Spock.' I gave her my name right away!"

On a serious note, Larry says, "The care I had was exceptional – I can't say enough about that."



Dr. Vincent Reid
Mercy Surgeon

"He said, 'Hi Lucky,' because I was lucky to be alive."

*Larry Adair
Mercy Patient*