

TATTOOS: A REFLECTION OF YOU



SCOTT & AMY

Scott & Amy Smith

Ages: 57 & 51

Professions: Electrical Contractor & Elementary School Paraprofessional

Hobbies: Motorcycles & Travel

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Tattoos are interesting because they oftentimes tell a story or are significant to the person getting them because they invoke a memory, reflect symbolism, or are celebratory. Scott & Amy Smith were each wanting to get tattoos and were referred to Sink or Swim Studio and Gallery in Marietta, GA where they met tattoo artist Rob Thomas and he began telling their stories.

Scott and Amy are motorcycle and travel enthusiasts residing in Georgia. With their kids grown and on their own, they have quite the collection of motorcycles they enjoy riding and frequently travel all over the world. I had the pleasure of talking with them to hear the story behind the tattoos they wear.



Was this the first tattoo for each of you?

Funny story. Amy's had tattoos a good bit of her life. I got my first tattoo September of last year for my birthday.

Right before my birthday, I was at Mount Rushmore with a good friend. Staring up I said, you know, it'd be really cool if I had my name up on that wall. He looked at me and he said, "How many of your friends are going to come here and see that? You know, if you started getting tattooed with the patriotic images you are so passionate about, at least everybody would get to share that with you versus having your name on a wall somewhere in the middle of South Dakota where nobody's going to go." So that's what inspired all the

tattoos honestly.

I was in Las Vegas when I got that first tattoo and I really liked it. Knowing I would get more, I thought this is gonna get expensive if I have to fly to Vegas every time I want to get a new tattoo. So we asked around and got an overwhelming response and referral to Sink or Swim Studio and Gallery and specifically Rob Thomas, Tattoo Artist.

What tattoo did you and Rob decide to do first?

As an Army veteran and patriot, I decided to get a Liberty Bell on my left shoulder. We continued the theme with the iconic image of Washington Crossing the Delaware. Next, I got 2nd Amendment on my back with a pair of Glock 19 pistols. Most recently, I had an eagle put on my right arm.

Up until the most recent tattoo, I intentionally choose to place my tattoos where they would not be seen in my daily profession. They're totally acceptable but, you never know who you're going to meet and who you're trying to do work for so for that reason I placed them where they would be covered. The eagle I just had done on my right forearm is me dipping my toes in the water of tattoos that will be visible.



SCOTT & AMY'S MOTORCYCLE COLLECTION



Do you have plans for future art? Will you stay with this patriotic theme?

Continuing with the patriotic theme, we currently have plans for a sleeve on my right arm to tie in a 1776 flag on my right shoulder down to the eagle with a continuation of the flag and the words "land of the free because of the brave."

The fact that you chose a patriotic theme for the tattoos you got tell your story, and anyone that sees this art has no doubt that your story is a reflection of your identity.

Amy, I understand you've had tattoos since you were 18 years old. So what tattoos are you getting done now with Sink or Swim Studios?

I'm using the same tattoo artist as my husband, Rob Thomas. We began working on a sleeve on my left arm this past October. It's a travel theme of sugar skulls with the national flowers from all the different countries that Scott and I have traveled to.

That's really cool and yet more subtle than your husband tattoos. I understand y'all travel quite a bit. What are some of the places that you've gone to?

We've been to Italy, France, the Netherlands, Amsterdam, Switzerland, Bahamas, Mexico, and Germany. We



discovered some of the countries share the same national flower so that helped as Rob pulled the design together. I've always wanted to get a sleeve but never had the guts to do it. When Rob started Scott's, I decided I was gonna get one, too.

Do you have plans for any future tattoos?

Rob and I've actually been talking about it. I want to get travel stickers of iconic landmarks from the places we've been, Pikes Peak, Leaning tower of Pisa, etc... Nothing definitive yet but whatever artwork Rob comes up with, I'm sure it will be amazing.

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