

My father recently passed away on 4/5/08 at the age of 55. He is a Marine. He was stationed at Camp Lejeune in 1972-1973. My mother was pregnant with my brother later in 1973. We were transferred to Camp S. D Butler in Okinawa and then to Albany, GA where I was born. My father over all hasn't been healthy for the past at least 15-20 years, but no doctor at the VA could find out what was wrong with him- tumors for no reason, heart issues along with a lot of other problems. And then 5 years ago I had my daughter who was born with a rare genetic mutation called Tuberous Sclerosis Complex. It's a disease that causes tumors in her organs, similar to cancer, only the tumors are benign but effect the function of the organs. She's a preemie that has had 3 open heart surgeries because of a tumor that was in her heart at birth. She has them in her brain, heart and kidneys as well to this day. Along with delays she has seizures and a lot of other medical problems. We still have yet to find out where the TSC came from and the doctors asked me if I or anyone in my family were exposed to any chemicals in the previous years. I've had 4 miscarriages before I had my daughter, but the doctors never told me if there was a reason-only that I should discontinue to try to have children. Last month before my father died he told me he was sorry, he was probably the reason my daughter was like the way she is because of his time spent at Camp Lejeune. He wouldn't say much more about it and a few days later he died. We didn't have an autopsy done, but after reading about the contamination maybe we should have.

For more information on Tuberous Sclerosis Complex, please visit <http://www.caringbridge.org/pa/arianna/> and <http://www.tsalliance.org/>

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