

My dad was stationed at CampLeJeune from 1968 to August 1971. At first we lived at Tarawa Terrace for a short time until my dad was promoted to E-6 and then we moved to Berkley Manor. We lived on Inchon in Tarawa Terrace and then moved to Michigan Avenue in Berkley Manor. During the time we lived at Camp LeJeune, my siblings and I were always getting sick. We never liked the taste of the water there either. My mom would have to make Kool-aid all the time to hide the taste of the water.

I had gotten a rash all over my chest and arms when I was 13. The doctors told my parents the rash was a result of my nerves. My sister and I were plagued with headaches and stomachaches. I remember the doctors asking my parents if me, or two of my sisters who were in school, if we had a test coming up in school. They thought we were faking it to get out of school and school work. There were even times when the doctors told my parents they did not know what was wrong with us or what we had.

My brother was born there. He almost died when he was 3 months old. He had some type of toximia, and had developed arsepticarthritis in both of his ankles. We had guppies and gold fish that would die within 2 days after getting them from the pet store. We also had a dog, who we had to put to sleep, because she had stomach cancer. We also had a rabbit for a short time. My dad took her out into the woods near the Naval Hospital and let her go, because he did not want us to watch her die. She was very sick and had some type of growth in her stomach area.

From the time we lived at Camp LeJeune until now- well into our adulthoods- my parents, siblings and I have had a number of health problems. My mom, 3 of my sisters and myself have had total hysterectomies. We had uterine cancer and were plagued with ovarian cysts. My sister Debra and I have had mini strokes. Debra had one, and I have had three mini strokes when I was in my mid-thirties. My sister Debra and my brother have MS. My mom and sister Nancy have thyroid problems. My mom has circulatory and nerve problems with both of her legs. My sister Charlotte has fibromyalgia. I have had bouts with cancer three times (all were caught in the beginning stages. I have bilateral Minere's Disease, cerebral small vessels disease, degenerative disc disease along with arthritis in my facet joints in my lower lumbar area, cervical spinal stenosis (which I was recently diagnosed with). In the past I have been treated for IBD and Diverticulitis. My sisters and I have been even treated by doctors who dubbed what we had wrong was a mystery to them because they had never seen or encountered it before. I cannot tell you how many times we had doctors tell us in the past that it was all in our heads. It is sad that it took this long for any doctors to even believe us with all the health issues that we are now going through.

My children and grandchildren are going through medical stuff that I believe that is in director correlation with my exposure to the water contamination. Every one of my daughters have PCOS, and so do all of my nieces. My oldest daughter had endometriosis to the extent that it almost killed her. There is too much to list on what my siblings children and grand children are going through. All I have to say is it is about time that people learn about the hell we have had to endure and what water contamination can do.

May be we can save future generations from an onslaught of health problems if everyone would take our stories to heart and learn from them.

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