

BACKGROUND AND PERSONAL INFORMATION:

My name is Gloria E. Full, I am 62 years old and I came to Arizona in 1971 after my husband, GySgt Joseph E. Full retired from the USMC after serving nineteen and a half years. We spent his last year in the Marine Corps in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Our daughter, Virginia Lee Full, was conceived and delivered at the Hospital located on Base. Virginia, who also lives in Arizona, married and gave birth to three children. The youngest one, Jeremy, was born in 1999 here in Arizona. Jeremy was diagnosed with a very rare form of cancer when he was one and a half years old and he died a year later. Jeremy was diagnosed with undifferentiated sarcoma, the doctors at Phoenix Children's Hospital could not find another case like his. As our last ray of hope, his parents agreed to a bone marrow transplant which was not only unsuccessful but the process was, in simple terms, nothing less but torture. He literally bled to death on the last 24 hours before he died.

MEDICAL HISTORY: There was no history of cancer in our families, Jeremy was the first one and I am the second one.

In March 2005, I was diagnosed with diffuse large B-Cell Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma which is not only a very aggressive form of cancer but, according to the Lymphoma Research Foundation, it is very rare, only 5-10% of patients are affected by it. It is my opinion and the belief of those who have done extensive research in this area, that my condition is related to the contamination of the water in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Research indicates, and my Physicians believe as well, that Lymphoma is one of the cancers associated to environmental causes. My life will never be the same. I had intense chemotherapy treatments and I will continue to have chemo maintenance for years to come, if I live that long. My bone marrow is not functioning, therefore, as a result of significantly low white counts, I receive bi-weekly shots of neupogen, which causes moderate to severe bone pain as well as fatigue, in order to raise my white count to a level that will protect me from contracting any disease which we are all exposed to at any given time.

Since 2005 my life has been ruled by the lymphoma. No, I can not go grocery shopping at any time during the day. I have to be fairly certain that the stores are not crowded to minimize the risk of exposure to illnesses. In spite of the ongoing low level of energy, pain in my bones and memory challenges, I had to continue to work in order to maintain medical coverage. As of May 4, 2007, I had no choice but to go on medical leave for an undetermined length of time, I could not continue to work two jobs, weekly medical appointments, weekly blood work and/or treatments, petscans, CT scans, MRIs and bone marrow biopsies and tend to the high level functioning that my profession requires at the same time. My severely compromised immune system in addition to "hot spots" in the pelvic are and in the spine keep me and my physician on a "watch and wait mode." What a way to live! I bless each day since I never know when I will be told that my time on earth is limited.

What is my prognosis? No one knows. I could live 10 years or I could die in a month. This is just a summary or what I consider the legacy of having lived in Camp Lejeune. Last but not least, my daughter's future and that of her other two children remains unknown. We are all aware that cancer could strike again!!!

Gloria E. Full

Arizona