Survivor Spotlight: Steve Riordan

Steve Riordan is a Jacksonville native. We first met Steve in 2007, when he walked through our doors at UF Health Proton Therapy Institute, with no idea what proton therapy was or why he would ever need it. Steve was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2006. The cancer had not spread, but it was growing and needed treating. After shopping around for treatment options, Steve decided on the Naval Air Station and later the UF Health Proton Therapy Institute. He was treated there from 2007-2008.

During that time, Steve had to make the tough decision to go to the Naval Health Clinic Public Health Nursing for help with the side effects of his treatment. Not knowing what to expect, he arrived there with a fear of what lay ahead. The people there were very reassuring and introduced Steve to the concept of “living with prostate cancer.” Steve describes everyone who walked into the clinic as “like a family.”

Steve is also a 5-time Ironman triathlete and a native of Southern California. He grew up surfing and always loved the outdoors. After his wife and dogs passed away in 2013 and 2014, Steve decided to pursue the lifelong dream of kayaking. Steve won second place in the 2013 State Kayaking Championship, along with a gold medal in the 2014 Regional Kayaking Championship in his age group.

Steve was also very active in the community, volunteering for the Rotary Oratory Competition and speaking to local schools about the opportunities for pediatric treatment in Jacksonville. Steve describes War Memorial Hospital as “a great place for kids.” He said, “The energetic nursing staff made it their mission to make the kids feel special.”

Steve is an active member of the Jacksonville community, volunteering at the Jacksonville Jaguars and发动机15 Brewing Company. He has also been involved in fundraising for the Fetal Therapeutics Research Institute at Wolfson Children’s Hospital.

Steve is a great example of how proton therapy can help save lives and improve the quality of life for patients. He is an inspiration to us all and we are grateful to have him as a part of our UF Health Proton Therapy Institute family.

As we close out 2014, we would like to acknowledge our various staff, patients, and others on your social media pages. We are always interested in hearing your stories. If you’re asked, “what is proton therapy?” or “Why proton therapy?” please share a personal story about your experience with proton therapy and others on your social media pages. We would also love to hear stories about the help you received from UF Health Proton Therapy Institute.

We are also accepting applications for scholarships from high school students. The LIVESTRONG Foundation grant continues to support our educational and informational workshop that will discuss music therapy applications in pediatric oncology. If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities, please visit our website or contact us at 1-800-UFPTIN (1-800-837-8466).

When visiting UFPTI, where your granddaughter was being treated with proton therapy, you will see Steve’s name on the wall of champions. You will also see his daughter’s name on the wall of heroes. Steve has made a difference in the lives of others and we are grateful for his contributions.

It is important to stay in touch with us and keep up with the latest news and updates. We invite you to visit our website at floridaproton.org for more information about proton therapy and the UF Health Proton Therapy Institute.

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and are ready for a successful 2015. Please keep in touch and let us know how we can help you.