

The contamination at Camp LeJeune was revealed to me when I began research because my husband, Samuel "Jason" Perez, age 29 was diagnosed with the extremely rare form of cancer, Adrenal Cortical Carcinoma. Because of the rarity of this type of cancer his physician asked him if he had ever been exposed to chemicals. Also upon hearing the diagnosis his mother immediately mentioned the water contamination at Camp LeJeune . Jason was conceived and lived on Camp LeJeune as a child. His father is a proud, retired, Sgt. Major in the Marine Corp

Since then (September of 2002) I have learned a lot about the disease and the poisonous chemicals that our military and their families were exposed to on that base. The fact that dry cleaning chemicals were dumped into the drinking water system is enough alone to justify a study on those exposed. There were many more chemicals in the water on that base and I believe because Jason was conceived there, he was affected as a fetus, as well as a young developing child while he consumed the poisons all around him in Tarawa Terrace where he lived. He also had a lot of the same symptoms others have reported such as cysts, ear problems and skin disorders. Those were the obvious signals; the tumor on his adrenal gland was not.

My husband died October 2, 2002, just 5 weeks after his diagnosis. He left me, our son, Austin age 6 and daughter, Alenna age 3. We miss him every day - he was an extremely loving father - who absolutely adored his children.

Now I worry every time my children have a fever or a stomach ache. I wonder if they may have been exposed through their father. I worry that the chemicals Jason was exposed to may affect their health in the future.

If Jason had been warned and monitored he may have been saved. As it was, he was a strong, seemingly healthy young man who, when he complained of back pain, doctors thought he had strained a muscle. The tumor was not discovered until it was 14 cm and too large to remove. The last few weeks of his life were very unpleasant and horrific for him and his family. These affected individuals need to be monitored - it can save their lives.

I hope for some sort of legislation to allow the affected including, my children, to be screened periodically to see if the water has damaged them. Please help us all achieve some peace of mind.

Thank you for your consideration, on behalf of Jason, Austin and Alenna Perez.

Christie Perez