

Richard Kaufman

The Lung Cancer Support Community and LUNGevity Foundation recently lost a valued member and lung cancer research advocate. Richard (Rich) Kaufman passed away on November 25, 2009, after surviving seven and a half years with stage IV non-small cell lung cancer. Rich was diagnosed in May of 2002 and shortly thereafter joined the Lung Cancer Support Community (LCSC) message board at www.lungevity.org/LCSC. He was a source of great inspiration to other survivors and caregivers. His positive attitude was unwavering throughout his illness and reassured many that it is possible to live with lung cancer.

Rich's approach to diagnosis is best described in his own encouraging advice. One can get through a diagnosis by:

- Not dwelling on it. How I got it, why me, what if I did this/that or the blame game etc. It's counter productive and wasted energy.

- RESEARCH, RESEARCH, and more RESEARCH. Knowledge is the key! The more one knows the better one can make decisions with their doctor and the better they can fight. Keeping it simple, it does not really matter to me every little word on a report. Try to get down to the chase of what is going on and what needs to be done.

- Living life to the fullest by making the best of it every day and by keeping busy. Life is short enough so why let a day go by.

In 2006, Geri Norris, a small cell lung cancer survivor, joined Rich in his inspirational efforts. Together they gathered other LCSC members and their families to form a committee for the first Boston Area Lung Cancer Walk, benefiting LUNGevity Foundation. Rich and the committee spent countless hours searching for a location and planning this event. Thanks to the amazing efforts Rich and his team put forth, the Boston Area Lung Cancer Walk has become one of LUNGevity's most successful events.



Our deepest sympathy goes out to Rich's wife Kathy and their daughter Tina.