



Davie Metzger
2013 Jingle Bell Run/Walk
Alton, IL

Meet our 2013 Adult Jingle Bell Run/Walk Honoree

Davie Metzger was stationed in the Panama Canal Zone when he, only 21 years old, learned of his arthritis diagnosis. That was back in 1970 and the treatment was simply to take aspirin for the inflammation. So he took aspirin and went about his work assignments and daily life. Forty-three years later, he is proud to be a part of the Arthritis Foundation and honored to be the Alton, Illinois 2013 Jingle Bell Run/Walk Adult Honoree.

Through the years, as his arthritis continued to worsen, it affected his hands, elbows, knees and spine. After taking ineffective prescription medications for a time, he returned to the aspirin therapy to help alleviate the pain. Three years ago, he was given shots in both knees and doctors told him when he was ready for surgery to let them know. He continued his work as a truck driver but his knees got progressively worse until he was having difficulty walking.

After visiting with his family physician, he was advised to see an orthopedic surgeon for the possibility of having one knee replaced at a time. After x-rays were taken, it was determined he should have both knees replaced at the same time, and really should have had the surgery done 10 years ago. Davie was up to the challenge to beat the terrible pain he had in both legs and underwent surgery on June 25, 2013. He is presently recuperating with therapy at the Human Motion Institute at Alton Memorial Hospital.

Davie has been married to Susan for 30 years. Together they enjoy a blended family of four grown children, Davie John Metzger, Matthew Newman, Anna Ray, and Amanda Moore and four grandchildren. His truck-driving career has been going strong for 40 years, with the last 27 years spent at Con-Way Freight based in St. Louis, MO. His career has led him to multiple competitions and awards with several first, second and third place finishes in the Missouri Truck Driving competition, including two-time Grand Champion. He has accumulated over two million safe driving miles and was awarded the Raymond O'Brien Award from Con-way for excellence in driver training and retention.

Prior to his knee replacement surgery, he enjoyed ATV activities with his grandsons, Brady and Hayden Moore and hopes to get back to ATV riding soon. He and his wife also love taking their family in their RV to various destinations. Their favorite vacation spot is Gulf State Park in Alabama. Since he has been unable to physically participate recently, he still has contributed to the Jingle Bell Run/Walk. His wife Susan, daughter Amanda and their pet Airedale named Sparkles; all enjoy supporting the cause by doing the walk every year. This year, Davie's goal is to participate in the 2013 Jingle Bell Run/Walk with his new knees.

The Arthritis Foundation is thrilled to recognize Davie Metzger as the 2013 Jingle Bell Run/Walk Adult Honoree.

About the Arthritis Foundation

The Arthritis Foundation (www.arthritis.org) is committed to raising awareness and reducing the unacceptable impact of arthritis, which strikes one in every five adults and 300,000 children, and is the nation's leading cause of disability. To conquer this painful, debilitating disease, we support education, research, advocacy and other vital programs and services.