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“I am going to continue to work, play, support my family, serve my country and my fellow citizens, despite the limitations of my disease.”

Donald Haskin, Hollywood, MD



I was diagnosed with MS about 12 years ago. At the time, I had two teenage sons and was busy building my career. The diagnosis hit me pretty hard. Would I be able to continue to work? Would I be able to be a Dad to my boys and a husband to my wife, or would I become a burden to them? I continued to work and the progression of my disease has been slow. Looking back now, I realize how truly blessed I am. I still continue to work, my boys are grown and on their own, and my wife has supported and cared for me throughout this experience. As my condition has gradually worsened we have come to many crossroads where a decision must be made. One of these crossroads occurred about three years ago. I have been an active member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary for over 20 years. This is a volunteer organization that supports the Coast Guard through operational patrols, education, and vessel examinations. My priority throughout my time with this organization has been on the

operational patrols. This means that I supply my own boat, equipped to Coast Guard standards, to be the eyes and ears of the Coast Guard in our local waters, mostly on the weekends. We are also present to assist boaters in distress. I had reached a point where my boat was old and I was considering resigning from the organization. After much thought, prayer, and conversations with my wife, we decided that I should remain active in the Auxiliary and purchase a new boat. As a Coast Guard Facility the boat needed a name. One night it came to me, the name would be DEFIANT. This was the name of the "tough little ship" used in the Star Trek television show "Deep Space 9". The name seemed appropriate; continuing in an organization and activities that I love, in spite of MS, is an act of Defiance. I am going to continue to work, play, support my family, serve my country and my fellow citizens, despite the limitations of my disease. So, if you are boating in Southern Maryland, and see a boat flying the Coast Guard flag and the name DEFIANT on the side, give us a wave, I am still defying MS to slow me down!