



Survivor Story: Mary Blaul
Orange County Fire Authority, Firefighter/Paramedic.
Diagnosed with Myelofibrosis Cancer in 2011.



Ocfa Deputy

chief retired Ron Blaul was married to Mary Blaul, a firefighter paramedic who passed away from an occupational cancer blood.

"Mary and I worked our careers looking forward to retirement. And over those years we made a huge list of places and things we wanted to do after retirement. We even joked at one point as we looked at the list and thought 'it's going to take us 20 years to do all these things and get to all this stuff'. We only got two" (years).

"It kind of sneaks up on you. She had a condition that was being managed well and then it transitioned to a fatal form of it. She swung for the fence and chose a bone marrow transplant, and over the course of 15 or 16 months she swung for the fence over and over. Trying to win every time but we lost, you know, you don't always win."

"I mean you get it, somebody gets cancer. But not to try to horrify everybody but it was awful! She couldn't eat from October till she passed away the following August. So every night I would have to hook her up to an IV feeding tube and take her off every morning. She was in constant pain; it was just awful."

Our Vision: To be the global leader in firefighter cancer support, awareness, and education.

Our Mission: To assist firefighters and EMS providers and their immediate families diagnosed with cancer by providing badge to badge support, training and guidance.



"The thing you may not appreciate, is that all the people you love are going through the cancer battle with you. All the people that you say 'you're here for' suffer through your cancer. If you really care, you would do everything you could so that they would not have them go through that experience.

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