



**RAO CLOSURE- 5 and 12 June Weds. Mail will be received 4 and 11 Tues.**

### **KNOW YOUR OPTIONS**

A member came in the other day and was talking about having gotten a misdiagnosis from a local Dr, I've had a few over the years and not just confined to the p i. it happens everywhere. Here's my story of the last couple months. I dont normally share a lot, but this is an important subject.

**MARCH FROM HELL, AN APRIL FROM HEAVEN...long story but worth the read--**  
**March roared in like a lion- woke up with really bad neck pain and worst headache ever experienced. Went to Dr, said pulled neck muscle in sleep. Got script for anti inflammatory, which is strongly recommended not for use with patients with Ischemic heart disease (he knew I have it), Its a souvenir from Nam and agent orange. Sent to specialist, who diagnosed problem with faucet joints in rear of neck vertebrae, said need surgery immediately, thought he was a little fast on the draw so went for 2d opinion, got similar results but says cervical vertebrae pushing on nerves causing pain and have spondilitis. Rec immediate surgery, which later found out normal results are you die on the table, end up paralyzed, or surgery fails and no change in pain, usually worse. I had concerns with flem caused by smoking and bad things that could happen during operation. Pulmonologist orders xray and cscan. xray all good but pathologist says have pulmonary fibrosis. rare disease that turns lungs into leather and you die from average 3-5 years. Hardest thing I've ever done telling my beautiful bride of 6 years and 2 girls daddy isnt going to be around very long. Went for blood gas test before surgery and wandered around hosp, 4th floor which is being redone having trouble finding clinic. Walked into a room that was set up as a chapel. Saw alter, pews and benches and figured why not I'm here good time to pray. Finally found clinic and tested,**

was walking to hosp exit and prayers were answered, bumped into a good friend who happens to be a ortho surgeon, talked about my health problems, told me do not get the surgery, go see physical therapy. First session pain was reduced by 50%. Figured between PT and meds could deal with pain for ever how long I have left. Went to new pulminologist who diagnosed lung problem as COPD. Guess she thought I was crazy when I said thank you for the diagnosis, but to me it was a huge weight off my neck literally. You can live a long time with COPD with good diet, exercise, and meds. Unless something else comes up will live to about what I expected. Oh, by the way, 2 Dr's said problem was nerves being pinched in neck, had a nerve test and there are none being pinched. Now comes along April, the month I married the most beautiful woman in the world. Didnt realize how truly blessed I am until the crisis of March. Found out how strong and supportive she truly is. There by my side every step and moment. Said doesnt matter what Dr's say, she will be there for me no matter what, and has been. Along with her is my little princess who GOD blessed us with 6 years ago, and her fantastic sister. Man hasn't invented the words to describe my love for them, nor has he created a number to count the blessings GOD has given me. Along with a son who is rock solid and friends one of which has researched the hell out of the disease and sends me utubes of guys living with the disease quite well, bringing me out of the depression that the mind creates about the unknown. All together through GODS blessings and strong family and friends, I'm looking forward to the future. I share this with you to suggest, no beg you to get a second, third , forth or whatever opinion, to be sure you know what your options are.

#### **EMBASSY OUTREACH--**

**THERE IS AN OUTREACH CURRENTLY TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THE 21ST OF JUNE, MORE WILL BE PUBLISHED WHEN RECEIVED, NO QUESTIONS WILL BE ENTERTAINED REGARDING THIS UNTIL WE KNOW MORE, THANKS**