

# HONOREE STORY

## Michael Savino

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Mike Savino was 44 when he would get the news that would change his life forever. An accident, getting hit in the ear with a racquetball, would send him to the doctor and save his life. When getting his ear examined, the doctor noticed a lump on his neck and sent it off to be tested. It would be that lump that would put Mike into a 23-year battle with multiple forms of cancer. That lump was tested positive for non-Hodgkin lymphoma and Mike started chemotherapy immediately. The cancers Mike fought were proven to be from Agent Orange exposure during his time as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army while serving his country in Vietnam. Over the next 23 years he would battle multiple rounds of treatments, experimental drugs, bone marrow transplants, prostate cancer and chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL).



Though it took a toll on Mike, he never lost his positive attitude and persevered through it all. He knew his family needed him and he was focused on being there to watch his children grow up, his grandchildren be born, and his sons find their way in life. He got the opportunity to live in remission for many years and because of that he was able to travel with his wife Cathy, spend time at the Jersey Shore with family, and make lasting and fond memories with the ones he loved. Over the 23 years since his diagnosis, Mike was able to build his company and secure his legacy as a smart and dedicated leader. His company, Certified Financial Services, was built with his partners by his side, supporting him through his entire ordeal. Together they grew CFS into a philanthropic firm that continues to make a huge impact on the community through education and charity. CFS was, and always will be, Mike's second family and he dedicated his life to ensuring its continuation.

Mike's remission also gave him the ability to volunteer his time and money for charities he cared deeply about, to coach his sons' hockey teams and attend all of their games, and to make memories that will last forever with those he experienced them with. He was a driven man, a passionate man, one with great morality and one who cared for all those who needed caring. He was selfless and loving, and put the needs of others even before his own. Mike lived a full life but, for all those that loved him, was taken too soon as he lost his battle with cancer on April 12, 2016. Mike will be missed by all those who knew him as well as all those people whose lives he made an impact on. But, as we move forward, we know, Mike didn't lose his battle with cancer, he beat the odds and lived a full life. He had 23 years to live every day to its fullest and spent it doing the things that mattered the most to him. Though he will be deeply missed, more importantly he will be remembered. Remembered for his vibrant attitude, his powerful presence, his understanding demeanor, and his thirst for knowledge. His life was lived with the notion of brevity, knowing that one day his cancer could come back. Just as all those people in remission, he didn't know when so he took every moment, every day, to live life with purpose and to focus on the needs of others before his own; a purpose we can all aspire to and learn from. Even though he is gone, he will live on in all those he has inspired and helped.

*This bio was written with love by his son, Michael Savino Jr.*