

Survival and Hope Life After Cancer



JIM "CHIEF" MOITOSO, 71
TYPE OF CANCER: NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER

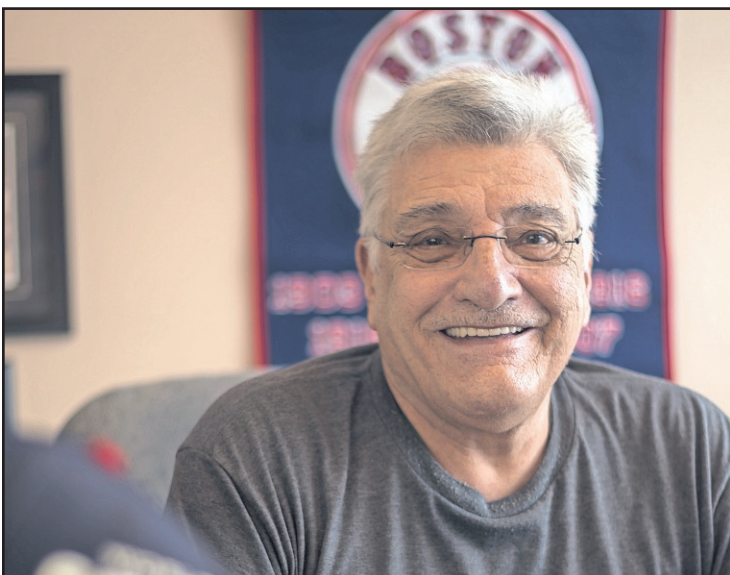
The Basics:

- **RESIDENCE:** Victorville
- **OCCUPATION:** Retired chief master sergeant, was in the Air Force 26 years. Educator- taught Air Force Junior Officer Training Corps at Victor Valley High School.
- **FAMILY:** Peggy Moitoso, wife of 41 years; four daughters; six grandsons; two granddaughters; one great-grandson
- **HOBBIES:** Must take breaks during the day, so he puts on headphones for music and listens to the oldies.
- **PHILOSOPHY:** Never say "I can't." Unless you are physically unable to do it, you can do it. I have had kids come back and thank me because I pushed them to do something they thought they couldn't do.

By Alberta Hale Crigler

In 2006, Jim Moitoso was driving on I-40 in the fast lane and fell asleep, rolling his vehicle "about 10 times." He walked away.

"When I did that, if you had looked at the truck, you would have said the driver died," he said. "It was crushed except for the



driver's compartment."

Then, in 2012, Moitoso had a second accident, and the front of his vehicle was run over by a semitractor trailer.

"My wife said, 'God is trying to tell you something,'" Moitoso said.

"I was going to the VA now and then for checkups. In July 2016, the doctor asked, 'How old are you? Do you smoke?'"

"I said 69, and yeah, a pack a day for 56 years.

"Immediately, he said to go to VA Loma Linda Healthcare System and get a CAT scan.

"A week later I got a call. They said, 'we're sorry, we saw something on your right lung. You need a biopsy.

"A week after that, I got a call, and they said they had something to tell me, come to the hospital. They said it was non-small cell lung cancer. "They scheduled surgery for Aug. 7, 2016.

"I only told family, because otherwise I would be getting a million phone calls. You are talking about a killer disease. Everybody I talked to, I would cry."

But people did find out. "People I didn't even

know would pray for me," Moitoso said.

Moitoso said he was not afraid going into surgery. "The anesthesiologist asked me if there was anything he could do." He said.

"I said, 'When I come out of surgery, whisper in my ear: 'Jim, when you come out of surgery, you will never want to smoke again.' And I haven't wanted to smoke.

"One of my surgeons was educated at the Mayo clinic. I thanked him for saving my life.

"They took about a third of my lung. That surgeon knew for sure that he had got it all. I met all three surgeons and they are pretty phenomenal.

“My surgeon... I thanked him for saving my life.”

"They said I didn't need chemo or anything because the cancer is gone.

"I started coming back every six months for checkups. After two years, now, I come every year.

"I am going to try to do things to show someone else that if you believe, God is going to come through for you. "I feel it is a miracle.

Moitoso did not go to a cancer support group. But he did attend a stop smoking group.

"Even though I had stopped when I came out of surgery, I went to the VA nonsmoking group just in case I got the itch to go back," he said.

Now Moitoso helps his wife Peggy, who was born with

a congenital dislocation of the hip. He describes her as "my rock."

"I go grocery shopping because Peggy can't do it. I load up and come home, unload stuff out of the car, and I am done for the day.

"But I am still walking and talking, and it doesn't prevent me from putting the word out. God doesn't send you more than you can handle."

Caretaker Perspective:



"Of course, (hearing a cancer diagnosis) always is scary," said Peggy Moitoso, Jim's wife.

"It is hard, but I just tried to be a strong person and be there for what he needed.

"Once they sent him for tests and did everything, it happened so quickly.

"Thank God he had surgery and everything went well. He didn't have to go to any kind of chemotherapy and radiation.

"I guess they caught it in time - it was in early stages.

"He has things he can't do because he gets winded right away. If we need something, family is always there with a helping hand."



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