



Guy Reneau

Mention the word ace to Guy Reneau and you might be surprised by the answer. Yes, he had a hole in one 30 years ago while golfing on vacation in Canada. And although he is going through a bit of a "dry spell" he is not discouraged

"Seems like I've had a lot of holes in 8 recently," he says with a straight face.

But Reneau also was close to becoming an ace of a different sort when he was working with the Vernon Police Department. The unusual community, which sits in the shadow of Los Angeles, is just 5 square miles and has a population of just over 100 residents, making it among the least populated cities on the planet. What it lacks in citizens it more than makes up for in businesses. Among other things Vernon is known for is its meatpacking houses.

Reneau quickly found out that among typical police duties he was also in charge of rounding up critters that escaped from places such as Farmer John and Swift.

In such situations he was told by his commanding officer to "dispatch" the runaways. After three confirmed kills, Reneau said he was close to achieving another benchmark.

"Two more and I would have been an ace," he says with a grin.

Humor served Reneau well in his 32-year career in law enforcement, on the golf course and in life.

"You can laugh or cry," he explains. "I choose to laugh."

That philosophy would be tested when Reneau was 42 years old. He was diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia, an uncommon type of cancer of the bone marrow — the spongy tissue inside bones where blood cells are made.

He spent most of 2001 in and out of hospitals and doctor's offices. For a while it was touch and go. He remembers laying in a bed on 9/11 watching the world go by.

Reneau received what would be a lifesaving bone marrow transplant from a career Navy guy who was living in Oxnard. Reneau later met this medical angel and his family to thank him for the gift of life.

“I am here because of him,” Reneau says. “The stars just fell in place for me.”

Now 21 years post-transplant Reneau is considered clinically cured. He does what most retired guys do: he travels, plays golf and enjoys a glass of beer and wine.

After he retired Reneau took off with his fifth wheel travel trailer and spent four months traveling the United States. Twenty-three states and 13,000 miles later he ended up in Key West Florida.

Reneau played competitive tennis but learned how to play golf about 25 years ago.

“My brother and uncle taught me,” he says. “But I still haven’t figured out the freaking game.”

Today he and his wife, Kim, live on 2-1/2 acres in Temecula’s Wine Country, a stone’s throw from Lake Skinner and Doffo and Chapin wineries. He often hears music from nearby wineries and his patio has a view of Glen Oaks Hills. He also has a refrigerated wine room that holds 400 wine bottles he has accumulated from his travels to Paso Robles and other wine regions.

He estimated that 399 of those bottles were not white wine. “We like reds,” he said.

In the end, Reneau said it’s all about perspective and discovering what’s important in life.

“It’s been a wild ride,” he concluded.