



Lions are symbols of strength and courage. Ole Pertet's journey with Lung Cancer was just that. As a Maasai warrior from Kenya that participated in the traditional Rite of Passage by killing a lion, Ole brought his strength and courage to America.

He met his wife Judy at a Professional Referral meeting and got the referral of a lifetime. From two different cultures, they became one happy family. They believed that their journey together had just begun. They had a daughter named Erica and a boy named Jonah and everything seemed to be going as planned. They started planning to go home to Kenya in December of 2012 to meet Ole's family for the first time.

When Ole developed a lingering cough that would not go away and a slight headache, Judy took him to the emergency room. After many tests and a biopsy "Stage 4 Lung Cancer with metastases to the brain" was the diagnosis on May 2, 2012 - a date Judy will always remember. They received these words in disbelief. How could this be? Ole was not a smoker, went to the gym every morning, ate healthy, and was young. As if these words weren't bad enough, they were also told Ole had 6 months to live and that they should consider Hospice. Their world seemed to crash and everything changed. Their dreams and plans had come to a screeching halt.

Ole had Cyberknife and started chemotherapy. He was in and out of the hospital with fevers, infection, and Pneumonia for 3 months. Judy continued to work full time and assumed the position of caregiver. They decided that cancer was not going to win and that one day soon they would

return to Ole's home in Kenya. They would meet his whole family, go on a safari, and see his homeland.

As Ole continued his chemotherapy he learned that lung cancer is very underfunded and is the top cancer killer in the U.S. Only 18% of lung cancer patients will survive 5 years or more. At this point, Ole decided that he would beat the odds. His mission would be to do everything possible to encourage other lung cancer patients, be a part of clinical trials and research studies, and petition for more medical research funding from congress.

Ole became involved in Cancer Fighters and LUNGevity. His contagious smile spread sunshine to others everywhere we went. He was always positive and wanting pictures with his doctors and nurses. He attended his first LUNGevity Hope Summit in Washington D.C. in 2014. He was excited to be involved with an amazing group of lung cancer survivors and advocates. With a group from LUNGevity he successfully rallied for medical research in Harrisburg.

For 2 years, Ole continued taking oral chemotherapy and facing numerous brain metastases spots with Gamma Knife. In October 2015, Ole had a seizure while cooking. His son Jonah called 911 and saved his life. The scary and traumatic event that was caused by multiple brain tumors. He was hospitalized and had radiation.

That Christmas was a special time for the whole family. They learned how precious every holiday and moment together truly was. Shortly afterwards he found out that his oral chemotherapy was no longer working and switched to a new Immunotherapy. Ole was told that he had to wait 6 therapies until

they would do a scan to see if it was working.

Those 12 weeks were the longest and hardest weeks, but Ole was determined to get through them. He experienced many pains and numerous trips to the hospital. The night before his PET scan he had a severe stroke that led to him pass away. He beat every prognosis given to him by fighting with a courageous and blessed spirit for 4 years.

Ole was the strongest and most courageous person I know. He never let on to those around him the battle he was facing. His contagious smile always lit up the cancer center and hospital. He was a ray of hope to all around him. Whenever he would see someone that looked worse off he would always smile and give them a positive word and realize how blessed he was.

I have decided it's time to continue Ole's valiant effort and join LUNGevity to help protect the future generations against lung cancer. LUNGevity is working on finding a better way to detect, diagnose and treat lung cancer and prevent their reoccurrence. LUNGevity has invested more than \$20 million in new research at 58 institutions in 23 states. In fact, it is the only lung cancer nonprofit with a focus on early detection. Finding cancer early leads to better outcomes and saved lives.

As Ole said "Never Quit on your Dreams."

My dream is that one day Lung Cancer will no longer kill because of new methods to prevent and treat the disease.

Judy Pertet