SEEING THE WORLD DIFFERENTLY: JEFFERY'S LEGACY LIVES ON

"The man who had spent most of his life unable to see out of one eye was now helping another person see."

For most of his life, Jeffery saw the world through one eye.

When he was 7 years old, a firecracker exploded in his face. Doctors saved his eye but could not restore his vision. Though the injury presented challenges throughout his life, it never defined who he was.

"He was tough. He was stubborn. He was hardworking. He was smart enough to figure out just about anything," his daughter said. "And he always had a smart-ass comment ready when the opportunity presented itself."

Jeffery approached life with determination. He even taught himself to use his right hand despite being naturally left-handed. He once hoped to join the Marines like his father, but his vision prevented him from enlisting. Still, he never let obstacles keep him from moving forward.

"He worked hard his entire life. He provided for his family. He showed up when he was needed. He loved us fiercely."

Among Jeffery's greatest joys was spending time with his family, especially his daughter. They shared a love of fishing and spent countless weekends together catching sharks from a pier.

"We were a father-daughter duo," she said. "Looking back now, those trips were about more than fishing. They were about spending time together, sharing stories, laughing and making memories I'll carry with me forever."

Today, every knot she ties, cast she makes and fish she catches reminds her of the lessons he taught her.

Jeffery with kids

Jeffery was equally devoted to his role as a father and grandfather. Even in his final days, his sense of humor remained. While in the hospital, he told his daughter, "I can't wait to see out of both eyes again." When she asked what he would do then, he smiled and replied, "I don't know. Probably lose my balance and fall."

After his passing, his family was surprised to learn that both of Jeffery's corneas could be donated. With compassionate guidance, they came to understand the difference his final gift could make.

"The man who had spent most of his life unable to see out of one eye was now helping another person see," his daughter said. "It felt impossible and beautiful at the same time."

His gift now offers others the opportunity to experience the world in ways many take for granted.

"I couldn't stop thinking about what he said in the hospital. Today, because of his final gift, someone else can see the faces of the people they love. Someone else can see a sunrise, a sunset, their children, their grandchildren and all the beauty this world has to offer."

Though his family misses him every day, they find comfort in the legacy he left behind.

"My dad spent his life giving to others," his daughter said. "It somehow seems fitting that even after his passing, he found one more way to help someone."

Jeffery spent most of his life seeing the world through one eye. Through his final gift, he helped others see through both.