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All Of Us Will Experience Health Problems At Some Time In Our Lives, But Some Individuals Show Incredible Courage When Forced To Deal With Ongoing And Serious Health Complaints

As we age, we all find that many parts of our bodies don't work quite as well as they once did and some unfortunate people seem destined to suffer from one problem after another during their lives. However, some of these people who seem to suffer from numerous health complaints often display a resilience that the remainder of us can only envy.

I can name two such individuals connected with me who have displayed a strength of character that has kept them going for much longer than medical science would have estimated. My father started to suffer from asthma as a teenager, which meant that he often experienced periods of breathlessness and had to use medication from a young age. At the age of 45 he was rushed into hospital with a very violent asthma attack and within hours he experienced a cardiac arrest. He was given no more than a fifty per cent chance of pulling through and we were told that if he did live there was a very real probability that he would have experienced some level of brain damage as his brain had gone without oxygen for too long.

However, he did pull through and his brain was not damaged intellectually although his physical reflexes had slowed down considerably. Some years later, whilst hospitalised again after another serious asthma attack, he complained of other symptoms and was told he had bowel cancer. Luckily it was at a very early stage and he had successful treatment for it.

Later on, his lungs and heart deteriorated to such an extent that he had to be connected to a permanent oxygen pipe and became practically housebound. His lungs were so awful that simply relocating from one chair to another would leave him struggling to breathe and totally unable to manage anything else at all. Even lifting a glass to his mouth was impossible. He finally passed on four years ago, but to reach his seventies whilst suffering from such debilitating problems genuinely was an achievement.

The mother of a close friend has gone through a similar list of health complaints. She got polio as a youngster, was confined to an iron lung for years in her childhood and was not expected to walk again. She baffled the doctors by managing to walk and went on to have a career as a singer and thereafter became a nursery teacher. She married and produced three children although she'd been told that she was probably sterile, and spent many years tending to her husband after he broke his neck and developed a serious heart complaint.

Unfortunately, following her husband's death, she had an unpleasant fall which destroyed her ankle and this, along with the onset of severe arthritis in all of her limbs, resulted in her being virtually housebound. She developed a lung complaint and then began to have problems with her vision. Treatment on the right eye did not go well, and although she was recommended Laser eye surgery for the other eye, she refused to have it done after the nasty experience she'd had with the conventional eye surgery.

A chest infection the year before last had a detrimental effect on her already damaged lungs and resulted in her being rushed into hospital only a few minutes away from death, but somehow she managed to hang on in there and slowly recovered. However, she is now in need of a permanent oxygen supply and has had no option other than to move into a residential care home where her mobility issues and breathing difficulties are checked regularly.

Since she moved into the home though, she is now able to mix with other residents as opposed to spending a lot of time in solitude at home. She now takes much more pride in her appearance, and has become a definite favourite with the carers because of her feisty opinions on life. Whilst she still says that the place doesn't feel like 'home', it has definitely given her a new lease of life. A recent appointment with the optician again suggested that she have Laser eye treatment on her other eye as she was having difficulty just looking at the television, and this time she actually agreed to have an appointment with an eye specialist for a [Laser eye surgery](#) assessment.

She recently went to the local hospital where a very friendly specialist carried out the [Laser eye](#) treatment and then she finally realised just how awful her sight had got. Her only complaint now? That when she sees herself in the mirror, she can now see how old she is!

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