



## The ride for life

### Raising awareness for cancer

When John Wilson Sr., 71, was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer, his family was involved every step of the way. They held his hand through each round of chemotherapy, and they were at his bedside after the challenging 12-hour surgery that saved his life.

Throughout John's journey, the nurses, physicians and staff at the Henry Cancer Center at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center were also at his side. **"We knew my dad was in the very best hands,"** said his daughter, Lisa. **"The staff at Geisinger was fabulous. They cared for him like he was a member of their own family."**

Overwhelmed and grateful for the skilled, compassionate care John received at Geisinger, his family knew they wanted to give back. Lisa's son, Chad (pictured to the right), was especially affected by his grandfather's condition. For Chad's senior project at Lake Lehman High School, he organized a motorcycle run to raise colon cancer awareness and to honor the dedicated staff that saved his grandfather's life. **"My pop's a member of the American Legion Motorcycle Club, so I knew this would be really special to him,"** Chad explained.

More than 50 bikers made the 55-mile ride, including John. A particularly touching moment of the event was the arrival of John's surgeon, Dr. Jacquelyn Oxenberg, and her husband — an act which moved John and his family to tears.

**"Seeing my dad able to ride — to do his favorite thing in honor of the care he received — it meant everything to me,"** Lisa recalled. Chad and Lisa donated all the proceeds from the event to the Henry Cancer Center — the very place John regained his life.

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