

RI Olympic swimmer Elizabeth Beisel raising funds for cancer research in memory of her father

BLOCK ISLAND – Olympic swimmer and medalist **ELIZABETH BEISEL** is raising funds in memory of her father, Ted Beisel, who was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer in December 2020. Ted passed away on July 1, 2021. The news of his diagnosis prompted Elizabeth to take action – the best way she knows how – by swimming.

“I quickly realized what my family was going through was sadly all too common and that the most impactful way I could raise funds for cancer research and clinical trials would be through my swimming platform,” noted Elizabeth. “I’m hoping the funds raised by Block Cancer will help support families who have been affected by this horrible disease and get us one step closer to finding a cure.”

Rob Butcher, CEO of Swim Across America, said Swim Across America is honored to work alongside Elizabeth to raise critical funds to fight cancer through her swim to Block Island. “So many in the Swim Across America community have come to love Elizabeth because of how generous she is with her time and encouragement,” he said.

She made history on Sept. 25th, when she swam from Point Judith to Block Island, Rhode Island in her BLOCK CANCER SWIM, the first woman to swim the 10.4 mile route successfully.

Butcher was in one of the two boats accompanying Elizabeth on the swim between Pt. Judith and Block Island, along with an EMT, two shark experts, Elizabeth’s coach, and marathon swimmer Elaine Howley, who successfully swam across the English Channel. Elizabeth chose this swim to Block Island as she grew up in Rhode Island and swimming to Block Island was always something she dreamed of doing as a child.



In 2012, Elizabeth Beisel brought home two Olympic medals; a silver in the 400m Individual Medley, and a bronze in the 200m backstroke. At the 2016 Olympics, she was voted by her teammates to serve as Captain of the U.S. Olympic Team.

“I have always envisioned my Dad being at Block Island waiting for me to finish with an ear-to-ear grin on his face,” said Elizabeth. “I replay that scene over and over of how as soon as I reached land, I would run into his arms and give him a hug and he would whisper proudly, ‘You did it, Elizabeth.’ Sadly, he’ll never get to see me swim to Block Island and I’ll never get to hug him again, but his fight wasn’t for nothing. I know that my dad’s battle along with the money raised by Block Cancer will save someone’s life one day. He is smiling knowing he gifted someone and their family the most precious gift of all time.”

According to the American Cancer Society, one-in-two men and one-in-three women will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. Beisel said this staggering statistic, coupled with dozens of hours of research, led her to do her part in making a difference. Thus far she has raised more than \$135,000 to go toward crucial cancer research.

To support, donate and/or shop custom Block Cancer gear, visit blockcancer.org.

Swim Across America, Inc. (SAA) is dedicated to raising money and awareness for cancer research, prevention and treatment through swimming-related events. Founded in 1987, Swim Across America has raised more than \$100 million to support cancer research and clinical trials. With the help of hundreds of volunteers nationwide and past and current Olympians, Swim Across America is helping find a cure for cancer through athleticism, community outreach and direct service. To learn more visit swimacrossamerica.org or follow on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @SAASwim. ❖



Elizabeth after the swim with her mother and brother.

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