

SmartVest® helps U.S. and motorsports veteran to “keep playing with race cars”

Ronnie K., a U.S. veteran (1943-1946), didn't let a near-death accident in 1997 keep him from his love of race cars. And since 2005, he states his life has improved “immensely” now that he can bring his portable SmartVest® with him on his travels.

Ronnie K., 82, has worked in the racing world for decades – as a driver, a builder/designer and a manager of race teams and auto performance programs. In 2008 he was honored for his “unparalleled commitment and dedication to the motorsports community.”



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Ronnie K.

In 1997, an accident at the track changed his life forever, Ronnie K. explains: “I was working in the pit area at a racetrack at Indianapolis Fairgrounds. A car spun out and slid into a concrete barrier. A chunk of concrete the size of a bowling ball flew through the air 80 feet and caught me in the back. It broke six ribs and bruised my heart and lungs. I was in an induced coma for four weeks. As a result of the accident, I suffer from a combination of Emphysema and Bronchiectasis.”

Since then, Ronnie has been taking a slew of medications and has landed in the hospital an average of three times a year due to pneumonia or other related bronchial conditions. “It's like I've been a magnet for any little bug that's floating around,” he joked. The main problem, he said, has been his inability to loosen up and remove mucus from his lungs, which has caused fluid buildup and subsequent bronchial infections.

To give Ronnie some relief, one of his doctors told him about chest physiotherapy “He said there's a process that's better than that, using a vibrating-type device,” Ronnie's wife and daughter proceeded to buy different types of vibrators, so he could try them. “You can't imagine all the different types of vibrators that are available,” he said. “We tried them all. None of them produced anything worthwhile.”

Finally, in 2005, a nurse heard about the SmartVest® and told Ronnie's doctor. They contacted Electromed, who brought in a SmartVest® to try. “He put the vest on me, we did a treatment, and by God, it produced good results!” Ronnie K. turned to his doctor, who witnessed the test, and said, “I gotta have this.” And she wrote a prescription.

“That was on a Thursday, and I had my vest the following Tuesday!” Ronnie said. An Electromed Clinical Area Manager delivered the SmartVest® to Ronnie's home and taught him how to operate it. “The instruction was very thorough and easy for me to understand,” Ronnie said.

Since then, Ronnie has taken four boat trips, to Alaska, the Columbia River and the Mississippi River, in addition to his annual trips to the Indianapolis 500. “I bring my medications and my SmartVest® with me and continue doing two 30-minute treatments a day, one in the morning and one at night,” he explained.

The difference in his life has been remarkable. “I've been taking the same medication and nebulizing 3-4 times a day for 12 years now. Since I began using the SmartVest® in 2005, I have only been hospitalized once. That was immediately following one of my trips to Indianapolis when I had been exposed to too many people and I got a bronchial infection.” He said that since he started using the SmartVest® in 2005, “my status has improved immensely. I can't speak highly enough of the machine and the treatment it provides. It has allowed me to continue to operate in the job I love.”■