

Resilient - Lisa Anne Triplett, Edgewater
Nominated by Donna Collins Tinsley

While working her way through college Lisa met Brandi, the daughter of the first boy she had dated in high school. Rick was now in the Navy and his daughter Brandi was living with his Mom and Dad. Rick and Lisa reconnected through Brandi in a long- distance relationship for a few years, and then Rick asked Lisa to marry him.

Plans were made for a wedding as he was being transferred from California to Jacksonville, Florida. One month after the engagement, Lisa received the devastating news; Rick had been in an automobile accident and was paralyzed from his chest down! It was Valentine's Day.

From that moment to this, Lisa has rarely left his side. In the first days at the hospital his heart stopped four times with Lisa at his bedside. After several weeks he was stabilized and was moved to Hines, VA Hospital in Chicago, where the hours of rehab were agonizing. As a young man he had to adjust to a totally new way of life. As he lay on his stomach in a striker frame which caused pain in his neck, head and shoulders, Lisa would sit under his bed so he could see her and read, talk, play his music, and do all she could to help pass the time.

The biggest decision lay ahead; what about the marriage? Easter Sunday, 1985, in the hospital chapel Rick and Lisa were married. Rick, still in pain, still unable to sit up in his chair, he was in a partial reclining position in his black suit, gazing at his beautiful, radiant bride.

Lisa's sense of humor is a trait that helps her be supportive to her husband; she jokes about spending her wedding night in a motel room with her parents and mother-in-law.

The cold weather in Indiana was too hard on Rick so they found and purchased a handicapped accessible home in Edgewater.

Through years of outpatient treatment that still continue, Rick is able to get out and about in his wheelchair and specially adjusted van. Lisa continues to encourage Rick by taking him to church activities, football games, baseball games, music concerts and more.

Rick just turned 48 years old and has a full life because of the resilient, accommodating, adaptable, cheerful, flexible, rebounding, and unsinkable character of his wife

A few years ago, as she juggled caring for Rick as well as her two young adopted boys, Lisa went back to finish college and graduated with a degree in Health Information Management.

Lisa Triplett, the adoptive mother of two of my grandchildren who are now eight and thirteen is one of the most resilient women I know.