



Dear John,

Eleven years ago the Friendship Paddle was formed as a way to help a close friend, Doug McFadden, battle an inoperable brain tumor. In doing so, the group raised funds and his spirits via a never-done-before relay paddle across the Santa Barbara Channel. Every year since, a group of us do a challenging ocean paddle event to provide emotional and financial support for another Santa Barbara family in which a young parent is fighting a life-threatening illness. On this, our twelfth year, we are honored to paddle for Tucker Heintz.

It is with great sadness that I tell you that Tucker Heintz recently passed away unexpectedly early. He died of Stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer and went very quickly after having an amazing 4-day surge in energy to have quality visits with family and friends. This is The Friendship Paddle's first time that a chosen beneficiary has passed before the paddle so we will cross new ground. We are going forward with this year's amazing paddle in memory of Tucker Heintz side by side with his designated beneficiary team. His family would like to pay it forward and has chosen the Cancer Center of Santa Barbara to receive this gift to help those still fighting.

Tucker, 40, was diagnosed with an aggressive form of pancreatic cancer in May of this year. He was a long-time local restaurant manager and avid surfer. Tucker was a true waterman, having grown up surfing in Malibu near Latigo before ultimately moving to Santa Barbara before the 7th grade.

Over the years, Tucker worked at some of our favorite places like Endless Summer, Chuck's Waterfront Grill and The Brewhouse, where he was manager for 8 years. Recently Tucker got his dream job at a local Tech startup. Due to his illness, he had to leave that opportunity.

Tucker was known as a person who put other people's needs first, someone who bent over backwards for you. He has a huge community of friends and people that he has touched and helped. He was a man of great compassion, humor and was even a minister and married several couples.

I have been involved with The Friendship Paddle since it was formed in 2003. Through those years I have learned that there are families in our community that are fighting for their lives. Suddenly, they are unable to pay their astronomical medical bills that often insurance won't cover. On October 11th, we will paddle across the Santa Barbara Channel in memory of Tucker and for his family and their wishes. Each of our boat captains, paddlers, and Tucker's beneficiary team will be showing their love and support by raising money in his memory to benefit others that are still fighting.

Will you make a gift to help us achieve our goal? Please support my paddle for Tucker by contributing to The Friendship Paddle. You can visit www.friendshippaddle.org and donate online or send a check to the address below. **We are a 501(C) 3 non-profit organization and 100% of your donation goes directly to the family!** Be sure to identify my name on the donation. Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a meaningful difference in our community.

Our non-profit tax ID is 20-3483481

-----Cut and send with your donation -----

Paddler name:

Send donation to: The Friendship Paddle
920 Garden St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Federal Tax ID # 20-3483481