

My name is Hope Martindell Grosse. I was born in Warminster, Pennsylvania in 1964, and for the first 25 years of my life, I lived directly across the street from the Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster ("Warminster Navy Base") at 217 Kirk Road. My home was adjacent to the base's **firefighter training area**, where firefighting foams containing perfluorinated chemicals (PFAS) were used and washed into the ground water for over 50 years. We watched the daily firefighting operations from my front porch. My family and many others had private well water. Public water was not available to homes surrounding the base until 1996 when TCE/PCE and many other volatile organic chemicals and heavy metals were found at high levels and the base was deemed a superfund site. This was the first round of poisoning we sustained. We didn't know about round two and PFAS until 18 years later.

Our well was in our front yard, 25 feet from the Navy's property and fire training area. There was a creek running alongside our home that gathered run off from the base. In the creek was a large pipe, big enough for us to walk through as children, that ran from the Navy's property under the gravel street to our property and well. We not only drank contaminated well water, we brushed our teeth in it, we swam in it in our pool, and we showered in it. But, the most sickening was that my mother fed us baby formula mixed with this toxic water as infants. I was one of six children in my family being poisoned unknowingly.

My neighborhood well, once hooked up to public water following the bases designation on the Superfund National Priority List, was well 26, now the most polluted well in town with PFAS levels recorded at 1,200 PPT in 2014, following the first EPA UCMR testing. Today, this well still remains shut down, still testing at 1200 PPT, due to its proximity to a large uncontained PFAS plume from the former base. Per, USA Today, my families drinking water well remains one of the HIGHEST PFAS levels found from a public drinking water well in the country. It is ironic to think that we got hooked up to this "safer" water because of VOCs and heavy metals threatening our health. Little did we know, the poison continued, and VOCs would be the least of our worries.

Growing up, all 8 of my family pets had cancerous tumors and died. Then, in 1990, my father died from cancer at 52 years old. It wasn't just my family, so many other neighbors passed from cancer and other debilitating diseases well before their time as well. Three months after burying my father, at age 25, I was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer, which for me has been a lifelong sentence. During my treatments for one cancer, doctors repeatedly found and removed other rare tumors from my body.

My sister, Faith, has endured serious health and autoimmune issues, including ovarian cysts, Lupus, fibromyalgia, abdominal aortic aneurysms, and a vertebral aneurysm. I lived in the family home until 1989. I also worked at the Navy base during college and after college for a year or so. Here other civilian workers and I, as well as their own dedicated military, drank the highly contaminated water on a daily basis. The military is the worst one of the biggest polluters in our country. No only did they bury toxic waste, routinely light jet fuel on fire and put it out with AFFF firefighting foam, they also burned toxic soup in burn pits that all polluted the well water on base and surrounding neighborhood private wells and municipal wells. There were over 50 other chemicals listed on the CERCLA list BEFORE we event knew about PFAS.

I have been dealt a lifelong cancer sentence. Anytime something is wrong with my health, just about anything, I am immediately filled with a crippling fear that it's cancer. I have lived for 25 years with a fear about what my exposures to these chemicals have done to my body, all because my parents bought a home adjacent to the Warminster Navy base. This type of trauma does not fade away. I have

spent an exuberant amount of time and money dealing with health issues, out of pocket expenses I lost count of years ago, and psychological scars that cannot be measured. Loss of work, loss of family time, loss of my loved ones. These things I lost cannot be given back to me.

The worst part of my deep-rooted fear is when it turns to guilt about what I may have exposed my children too through second generation health effects from PFAS and other chemical exposures. PFAS were passed on to my two daughters through my umbilical cord...what should have been nourishment for my unborn babies, was in fact poison, a poison we are just beginning to learn about. Do you know what that knowledge does to you as mother? Knowing that I could have poisoned my children? Our family has suffered lifelong devastation. AND WE ARE NOT ALONE. There are over 85,000 others that have possibly suffered some of the SAME devastation from PFAS exposure.

It was sickening for me and my family to learn that the military knew for decades about the dangers of PFAS chemicals in firefighting foam and completely disregarded human health as they consciously chose to continue to use it. I was once an innocent child, who trusted that my parents, my family, my neighborhood, and my government would PROTECT me and keep me safe. Thanks to the military, I stand before you today, as an adult, and every day is a battle for me to trust anyone.