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Desert Dedication: Doug's Walker Tracker Challenge Odyssey with Maddie and Graham

In the scorching heart of the Arizona desert, Doug Leahy embarked on his journey with our Walker Tracker Challenge. His companions on this journey were none other than his two dogs, Maddie, the Labradoodle, and Graham, the Siberian Husky. Also with him for every step was the memory of his late wife, JoAnne, who passed away in March of this year.

JoAnne, an Army veteran of Desert Storm, an ER Nurse of over 25 years and avid mountain bike racer and mountain climber passed away from Cancer earlier this year and Doug and his family miss her very much. What started out as a friendly daily step challenge among coworkers became something he could do to honor her and keep on living one step at a time. No wasted days was how she lived her life, even after she got sick, so continuing to climb out of bed each morning and go for a walk became something he could do to feel closer to her.

As Doug trekked through the arid landscape with his loyal canine friends, he found solace in the rhythm of his footsteps and in those quiet moments when he cherished all the amazing memories he and his kids had with their mom. The desert heat and the solitude of walking step after step brought him joy and comfort in this tough time.

Eventually Doug realized he wasn't just walking; he was competing. Regularly monitoring his steps on his Garmin Watch and frequently checking the leaderboard, he discovered a sense of camaraderie with fellow walkers. Sharing their progress with teammates created a bond that transcended the miles that separated them. Stories were swapped, and gentle ribbing was exchanged, fostering a community of support and motivation.

Among his fellow challengers, one stood out—Karen Lee. Her wide variety of activities and unwavering commitment left a mark on Doug. Karen Lee's presence on the leaderboard was a constant reminder of what could be achieved, and it drove him to push himself harder. In the end, Karen Lee finished an impressive 5th, while Doug proudly claimed the 4th spot despite the desert's relentless heat.

Doug's journey through the Walker Challenge was one of joy and sadness and resilience. It is a reminder that, even when you are down and don't think you have it in you, the human spirit can overcome any obstacle. Special thanks to the support of the Pulmonx community over the last several weeks and the unwavering companionship of two loyal dogs.

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Walking to honor of JoAnne

With man's Best Friends: Maddie and Graham

