

**This is why Mark D'Amico of Amputee Care Center in Fishers, Indiana is my Prosthetist for life**  
**by Paul D. ("Rafe") Refior August 2017**

My name is Rafe Refior. I am a 67 year old lawyer joyfully doing life without my left leg. Part of the goodness and blessings showered on me and my family from and by the Lord come from my treatment and help by **Mark D'Amico** of Amputee Care Center. Some quick background: I grew up playing sports and had the wonderful privilege of being an athlete in high school and college. Upon graduation from law school at the University of Iowa I was a Navy JAG attorney. After the Navy we lived in the mountains of Wyoming before we accepted a call for short-term missionary work in Japan with The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM), and finally we landed in Warsaw, Indiana where I opened my law practice and have been engaged in the practice of law to the present. In 2006 we also purchased a small farm near Lafayette, Indiana so that we could become involved with Faith Church and be closer every week end to our daughters and their families. On July 24, 2008, still very active at age 58, I was on a tall ladder attempting to hang a heavy object on the wall in preparation for teaching a Christian marriage seminar at our place the next day. Unfortunately, I fell from the ladder holding that heavy object and I came down on both feet flat and blew up both of my legs. That led to many operations over the next six years, Because of a destructive infection and my incurable chronic torture-level pain, the decision was made that my left leg had to be taken amputated below the knee. Because the pain level was so excruciating and had persisted for so long, the medical professionals warned me that even after the amputation I might have the same awful pain (phantom pain) for as long as the rest of my life. But God in His great mercy, when my surgeon whacked off my left leg, the Lord whacked off my pain as well. Praise God! I do understand that my story is different than some who lose a leg unexpectedly in a car accident or other type of trauma. By the time my leg was amputated I was literally begging for the day when my leg could be cut off - with the possibility of reducing the pain. Therefore, I did not experience emotional grief from the loss of my leg, but I still went through the same recovery and learning process as other amputees. That brings my story to Mark D'Amico of Amputee Care Center.

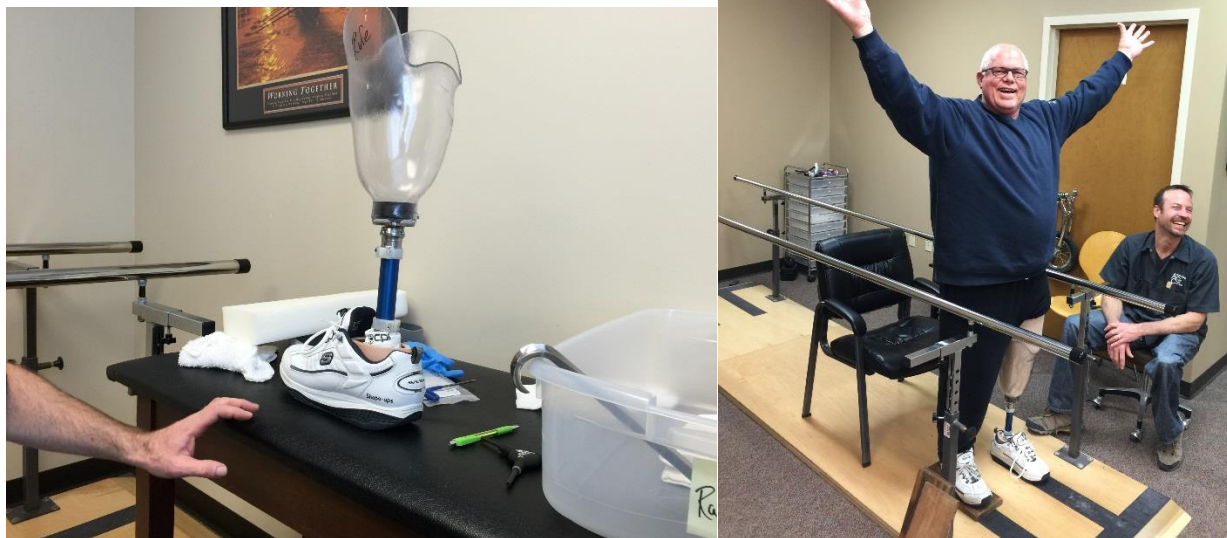


While I was in the hospital for the amputation my surgeon recommended two prosthetists with one of the large prosthetic companies. I had done a great deal of reading in anticipation of my amputation and I was aware of the reality that for an amputee, the special skill and attention of your prosthetist is vital, and since you will be needing a prosthetists the rest of your life, one should take care to choose a compatible and competent prosthetist.

The two prosthetists from one of the biggest companies who visited me at my surgeon's office took many measurements and explained many things to me. They were very professional and I am sure that they are very skilled. However, I was looking for the man or woman who could not only treat me expertly but who would really, really care. So I did what we all do these days, - I went to the Internet where I checked out the web pages of many companies in Indiana and even other states nearby. Many of those websites showed pictures of impressive buildings and luxurious lobbies, but I was not sensing the heart of any of the prosthetists. Then I came across the web page of Mark D'Amico and Amputee Care Center. Frankly, their web page was not as sophisticated or as extensive as the web pages of the big companies, but as I read I developed a sense that a man with more than 20 years' experience of working in the big companies, who was himself an amputee and who had all of the same certification as "the big guys," would not only have the skill level equal to those prosthetists in the big companies, but would also be genuinely concerned about the people he is dealing with. Reading how Mark decided to go out his own so that he could give individual and extensive care caught my attention. So I contacted Mark D'Amico and we set up an appointment. It really was a time for us to check them out.

Precious Pam and I talked with Mark and his wife Jeri about Mark's experience as a prosthetist, his story about how he lost his leg above the knee when he was preschool age and about his growing up working and playing alongside his siblings and friends, and how he successfully participated in all kinds of sports. Mark even represented the United States of America with the Paralympics (picture below -rather impressive, huh?). When Precious Pam and I left we both knew that we had found my prosthetists. So I engaged the services of Amputee Care Center in Fishers, Indiana and the process started.





Mark took great care when he was measuring me and working to fit the socket perfectly to my stump. It was a happy day indeed when I first was able to stand again after losing my leg. And the joy that Precious Pam and I expressed was matched by the delight and joy of Mark and his wife Jeri who celebrated along with us.

Even when I was in my first test socket we were able to do something that I had not been able to do for years - go to the beach. The crippling effects of my injuries and the pain involved meant that I simply could not walk on sand. Even with that first preliminary prosthesis, the Lord allowed us to go to the beach. It was so important and wonderful to me that I have a large print of those footprints on the sand displayed in my law office.





As all amputees know, the stump changes over time, particularly in the times after the amputation itself. Mark provided me with written materials and personal instruction about how to use socks to maintain a proper fit in my socket. When the time came for my definitive prosthesis, Mark made me a beauty - complete with a moving ankle and some spring in the foot.

As a testament to the heart and kindness of Mark D'Amico, several times I have taken grandchildren with me for my appointments. Mark takes the time to show things to the kids and explain things to them. Both of my twin grandsons have announced that when they grow up they want to be a prosthetist, and they have constructed some amazing miniature prostheses.





Mark has continued to serve me and help me. I am now in my second definitive prosthesis and it fits absolutely perfectly. My excellent prosthesis allows me to live my life without discomfort. Before my amputation I really was a cripple. Since my amputation and being guided and provided the right equipment by Mark D'Amico of Amputee Care Center, I am fully living life. And, as they say, I'm living large. That includes a lot of travel and wonderful activities. Thank you, Mark! To all looking for a great prosthetist, who truly cares and is himself a great guy.....you need to contact Amputee Care Center. If anyone wants to discuss this personally with me, feel free to Email me directly at [paul@refior.com](mailto:paul@refior.com).

