

Terry Chandler's love, caring leaves lasting legacy after her brave, valiant battle against brain cancer



Terry Chandler's commitment to helping others has left an indelible mark on the National Hot Rod Association and Don Schumacher Racing, and her memorable presence at racetracks and with her Make-A-Wish families and the Infinite Hero Foundation will continue to live on in the hearts of thousands.

Sadly, Terry lost her valiant fight with brain cancer on Tuesday afternoon. She was 65 when she died in Florida with family and loved ones at her side.

"Terry is a great human being who devoted the past few years to helping the Make-A-Wish and Infinite Hero foundations with her love and kindness by funding two of our Funny Car teams," said Don Schumacher, DSR owner and close friend.

"Terry is such a beautiful person. She was so much more than a friend and partner. She is family. We will always see that wonderful smile of hers at the starting line."

The native of New Mexico missed the NHRA Mello Yello Series event at Las Vegas in early April and a few days later underwent major surgery to partially remove one of three tumors in the front lobe of her brain. It was determined by an MRI that she was suffering from Glioblastoma cancer.

She was immersed in the fight of her life and battled valiantly to the end.

Chandler was presented with the NHRA Blaine Johnson Award in 2015 for her dedication to helping others.

"I love to race," she told Autoweek magazine in a 2015 article. "And bless my heart, I love to win. These gol-darned cars, I just love 'em."

Earlier that year, she was described as being "the most influential woman in drag racing" by the Inland Valley (Calif.) Newspapers.

"I never dreamed that I would be blessed in a way that would allow me to help others," she told the Southern California newspaper.

"Helping people is one of the most important things in the world to me - my daddy, John R. Gray, was an extremely giving man, and I learned from him how important it was to bless the lives of others. That is why this means so much to me. I feel very fortunate to be in this position."

A private funeral service will be held with a public memorial tentatively set for over Labor Day Weekend near Indianapolis during the NHRA U.S. Nationals.

Consistent, plodding Beckman with Chandler's Infinite Hero team get last laugh at Norwalk with third straight final, second event title

NORWALK, Ohio (June 25, 2017) - Jack Beckman and Terry Chandler's Infinite Hero Funny Car team doubled-up on Sunday by winning the NHRA Summit Nationals title then added a undesired starring role in the highlight video when their engine let loose in a fireball just passed the finish line.

"We were planning to bring out a new car anyway to test here tomorrow so we'll just go back to the pit and strip whatever's left off this one," said co-crew chief Neal Strausbaugh who collaborated with Dean Antonelli and John Medlen to send Beckman down the track four times Sunday with less than stellar times in the ever-changing weather conditions that included 4.060, 4.078, 4.074 and 4.073 in the championship round.

Meanwhile Robert Hight of John Force Racing was dominating his opponents by consistently running one-tenth of a second quicker.

On paper, Beckman never seemed to have a chance to get around Hight. But in NHRA, you race on pavement and not paper.

The Infinite Hero Dodge Charger R/T Powered by Pennzoil muscled down the track while Hight blew smoke not far off the starting line. It is the third final round for Beckman in three weeks and his team's second win during that run.

"I don't know that we're going to spend a whole lot of time soul searching about why we struggled here, because we left with the trophy," said Beckman, who won for the third time at the track and the 26th of his career. "We should look at that stuff, but I think we're going to dive in with that brand new race car and figure out what it needs."

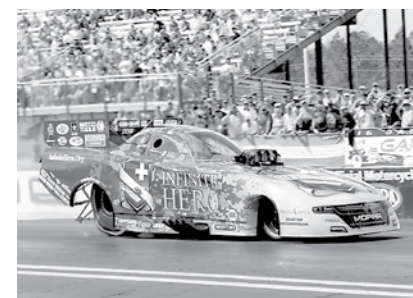
"What happens when you start running consistent is the other cars know that they have to step up a little and I think that we

just enjoyed a little bit of that for the last few weekends. We weren't spectacular, but our car went to the finish line pretty consistently and folks knew they had to step up.

"When I say we weren't spectacular, recognize I'm talking about a tenth of a second off of where we'd like to be. Which is not even a blink of an eye, but we need to pick that up. I have every confidence we will pick that up. If it doesn't happen tomorrow we're going to keep testing this thing. We want to win some more races and we want to win the championship, which means by Indy we have to have a combination that listens to us. But between now and then they're giving a trophy away every weekend."

The win was the 11th in 12 events for DSR and the 310th for DSR since 1998.

Qualifying left the four DSR Dodge Charger R/Ts in the top half of the 16-car bracket and after each won their opening races the quartet battled in an intrasquad scrimmage in the second round where Beckman eliminated pole winner Matt Hagan (Mopar Express Lane) and Tommy Johnson Jr. (Make-A-Wish) defeated points leader Ron Capps (NAPA AUTO PARTS) to mark only the third time this season that Capps did not advance to the semifinals.



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