



Michael Leftwich, 61, Nashville, Tennessee
Left hip replacement on January 4, 2022 at Ascension St. Thomas
Orthopaedic surgeon, William B. Kurtz, II, MD

Michael Leftwich has always been true to his roots. He lives in the same Nashville, TN home he grew up in and graduated from the University of Tennessee/Knoxville with a BA in agronomy (turf grass science), which led to a long career in golf course management.

“I’ve worked on courses from here to Georgia, New Jersey and Mexico and even worked with Jack Nicklaus for a while. I still consult while now working as a ground superintendent for a landscaping service in a homeowners association,” he says.

He’s played golf all his life too and it wasn’t until a year ago that he started to develop

debilitating pain in his left hip. He was turning 60 and decided to see a doctor who did X-rays and MRIs. He soon learned that he, as had his father and grandmother, suffered from arthritis. “It’s been bone on bone” he said. “I’ve only had sprains and strains and thought I had a pinched nerve.”

“I went from feeling fine several months ago to walking on a beach in July with pain, to needing a cane in September because it hurt so much. By November I started walking with crutches.”

Michael knew he needed a left hip replacement but had no insurance. His doctor, Thomas Gorman, MD, mentioned Operation Walk USA to him and so Michael applied. “I was so grateful and thankful for my doctor’s suggestion,” said Michael.

On January 4, Michael will have that hip replacement under the care of orthopaedic surgeon William B. Kurtz, II, MD at Ascension St. Thomas in Nashville.

“It’s pretty tough,” Michael says and the support of his son, currently in college and the friendship he still maintains with his ex-wife has provided solace, along with the care of his close-knit group of friends.

“I am home alone and this has turned my world upside. Imagine someone handing you a pair of crutches and that you have to navigate life with them and constant pain. It was so depressing

and I was in some dark spots two months ago. I felt bad, like a loser and it was my friends who helped build me back up.”

“Thank God that I can get up and take a shower every day. I can hobble to my jeep in crutches and I’ve been able to go to town, go to the supermarket, the drugstore, a couple restaurants curbside.”

“I can’t wait to be able to do the simple things in life I used to enjoy.” And that includes golf.

Michael should be able to swing his clubs soon, his hip intact and his roots still solid.