



Marathoner BethAnn Telford's health challenges will be topic of Discovery Channel program

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Former Camp Hill resident **Beth Ann Telford** is known for her fund-raising for brain tumor research through marathons and, last fall, the **Kona World Ironman Championship in Hawaii**.



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 BethAnn Telford, who grew up in the Camp Hill area, raises money for brain tumor research through marathons.
 submitted photo

Telford, 44, of Fairfax, Va., is about to venture into another realm – medical advances. Her upcoming bladder surgery Feb. 27 will be filmed as part of a **Discovery Channel** program called “The Silent Epidemic of Overactive Bladder: Challenges and Barriers,” which is set to air March 9.

Running will be on hold for most of the year, Telford said, after her surgery at George Washington University Hospital in Washington DC. **Dr. Tiffany Sotelo**, director of the Pelvic Floor Center at the hospital, will perform a rare bladder augmentation procedure on Telford, using a section of part of her intestine to enlarge her bladder.

Telford said her brain tumor has caused neurologic damage to her bladder, causing it to only hold a shot glass-sized amount of urine. She has a pacemaker that helps regulate her bladder function, and self-catheterizes in order to empty her bladder.

The Discovery Channel segment will include the story of her life and her **brain tumor fund-raising efforts**, such as the Washington DC **Race for Hope 5K** she founded, which has raised more than \$17 million.

Several midstate teams raise funds and run each year in the race, which will be May 5. Telford said she hopes to top the \$105,000 she raised last year through her Team BT. “This will be first year I won’t be running in it,” she said. “It will be nice to have someone new up there on the podium, but sad for me.” Telford said she hopes to be able to at least walk the Marine Corps marathon in fall.

Telford said she’s known for two years that she was going to need this surgery, but put it off as long as she could so she could compete in the Kona Ironman last fall. Without the surgery, she said, “I’m in store for kidney failure.”

Through the Discovery Channel program, Telford said she hopes others with bladder function problems might be helped, and that some of the stigma is removed.

Telford’s brain tumor was diagnosed in 2005 when she was 36. She’s had several surgeries and rounds of chemotherapy, the last of which was earlier this year. Since her diagnosis, she set out to complete her marathon goals, which included the Boston Marathon, more Marine Corps Marathons and the Kona Ironman, in which she won a slot through a video about her brain tumor fund-raising.

Her racing history has included three each Boston and Marine Corps marathons, two Lake Placid ironman races and an Ironman 70.3.

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