

Flying High with Healthy Smiles

Because each patient presents with his or her own unique needs, it is prudent to find a dentist with exceptional multi-disciplinary treatment skills.

When Veronica Peal fell down on the ice in Virginia a few years ago, she didn't really think that much about it.

"I had no idea my front teeth had suffered severe trauma," admits Veronica.

"We were living in Virginia at the time," elaborates her husband, Barry, a retired commercial airline pilot, "but we got tired of the cold weather, shoveling snow, and driving on ice, so a little over two years ago, we moved back to our home state of Florida."

Veronica says that, once in Florida, she noticed she was starting to develop a small hole in the back of one of her front teeth.

"While we were looking for a dentist," remembers Barry, "we came across the website of Dr. Blank."

Stephen G. Blank, DDS, practices cosmetic and functional dentistry in Port St. Lucie.



FHCN PHOTOS BY AMANDA SMITH

Veronica to an oral surgeon with whom he collaborates. The surgeon extracted her three teeth, replacing them with implants, which are artificial tooth roots placed into the jaw to hold a replacement tooth or teeth in place.

"Then a temporary bridge was created to cover over the front six teeth while

Veronica had to decide whether to match her new restorations with her shorter teeth, or to have her other teeth built up to be taller and sharper again: "Partly because I had some very old fillings in many of my teeth, I decided to go ahead with the second option."

Dr. Blank placed 24 individual crowns, three of them attached to the implants.

"They look great," enthuses Barry.

"I'm so happy with the results," adds Veronica. "I've gotten so many compliments on them from those people who knew I had them done, and everyone else just thinks they are my natural teeth."

"Dr. Blank and his staff are just wonderful. They're nice and pleasant; they made the whole process a lot less daunting."

Barry says Dr. Blank is very easy to work with: "I like him, and his staff is excellent."

"He really does run the office well," agrees Veronica. "They don't schedule appointments they can't cover; you're never stuck in the waiting room because of poor management, which is not true of many other medical practices. And they are really attuned to how their patients are responding. They keep a close eye on you, which is nice."

"I love everyone in that office."

arch and bring the top, front teeth in a little bit, then extract a tooth on the bottom to resolve some crowding issues and rearrange those teeth so that everything looked in place using Invisalign."

Invisalign is an effective treatment option for patients with crooked or spaced teeth. It is an almost invisible method to straighten teeth without metal wires, traditional braces, or brackets, and the clear plastic aligners are removable for eating and drinking.

"When Dr. Blank first mentioned Invisalign, I didn't think it was going to work," says Barry with a chuckle. "I had braces when I was a kid and I remember all the metal wires and brackets. I thought, *How can plastic move teeth?*"

"But Dr. Blank is very knowledgeable, which made me feel more comfortable about it. The aligners worked wonderfully, and unlike the traditional braces, there was no pain involved. It felt like a non-event."

Because Barry's teeth were somewhat worn and discolored, following the Invisalign treatment, which took less than a year, Dr. Blank completed Barry's smile makeover with strategically placed crowns that appear age-appropriate in color, and healthy.

"Now, I have a Hollywood smile," Barry says with a laugh. "No, really, they look beautiful." **FHCN—Kris Kline**

Stephen Blank, DDS

www.PSLdentist.com



"As it turns out, the site says Dr. Blank flies his own plane, as do I, and we pilots have to stick together," jokes Barry, then continues, "Actually, we liked everything we read on the website, so we scheduled a dental appointment. It was a wise choice."

Considering each patient's expectations, Dr. Blank chooses his dentistry procedures and methods carefully. He takes his time in evaluating both the patient's dental condition and how any cosmetic dental treatments will fit with other facial features, and he is very up-to-date in both his procedures and his equipment. He also continues to further his education in all the new technologies.

Problem discovered

After examining Veronica and reviewing her past history, Dr. Blank realized that her fall had traumatized her top three front teeth to such an extent that the inside of each tooth had started to dissolve away: "Although there were no initial symptoms, we found that all three teeth had holes in the back of them, not from cavities, but from a process called *internal resorption* during which the dentin and pulpal walls begin to resorb centrally within the root canal."

When Dr. Blank realized that the three teeth could not be saved, he referred

the implants integrated into the bone," describes Dr. Blank. "At this point, we needed to design the rest of her treatment plan, which includes the length of the teeth, the proportions we are looking for, the desired shape of the teeth, and their color."



Barry, who flies his own plane, and his wife, Veronica, live in a runway community and love their smile makeovers.

"During this process, we realized that Veronica's natural teeth were worn down, and as the back teeth wear down, they become less sharp, so they are less functional. Because you have to bite harder than you did in the past, it places more pressure on the entire system. It's like cutting your food with a dull knife; it's very frustrating."

When the teeth are sharp and in their optimum function, they work easily and last longer.

Invisalign clear braces

"My teeth have always been a little crooked," confides Barry. "Our dentist in Virginia was kind of a *drill and fill* sort, so I was really impressed during our first consultation with Dr. Blank. I thought his office was terrific. He was extremely informative and had all the electronic gadgets, which I like."

"It was impressive."

Barry presented with a dental arch that was rather narrow for a man with such a nice, full, round face, and his teeth were showing his age, recalls Dr. Blank: "I recommended that we expand his upper

Gold Medal Winner

Dr. Blank was awarded four gold medals at the 2007 Florida Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (FACD) Annual Scientific Session competition, which was designed to reward excellence in clinical cosmetic dentistry. The FACD is an organization devoted to seeking improvements in the science and art of cosmetic dentistry.



For that healthy smile

Dr. Blank and his staff look forward to meeting the readers of *Florida Health Care News*. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call (772) 878-7348. His office is located at 184 NW Central Park Plaza in Port St. Lucie. Call today for a complimentary cosmetic consultation. Dr. Blank will provide you with *SNAP* instant dental image, so you can see your new smile before you make any decisions.



Scan the QR code for Dr. Blank's contact information.

Dr. Blank invites you to visit his website at www.PSLDENTIST.com.