

ALS Roundtable  
September 9, 2024  
Keynote Speaker

John Hudacek

Person with ALS



John Hudacek is a 65-year-old male from Melbourne, Florida. He was enlisted in the US Army from 1977-1997 Infantryman, Aerial Photographer and Special Forces Medic. Afterwards, John worked at a private military international boarding school in Florida from 1997-2009 where he coordinated the flight training, SCUBA, rock climbing, horse riding, martial arts and driver's education programs. From 2010 to 2020, he was a federal civil servant working for the Army again as an educational advisor in a recruiting unit, then as a recruiter for officers at a college in Florida.

In 2020, John experienced three big events: retirement at 62 years old, COVID-19, and the development of his ALS. John shares that his first notice of ALS onset was his left hand/arm in the summer of 2019. After ruling out carpal tunnel and rotator cuff, he started seeing VA neurologists until an initial diagnosis in August 2021 with the confirmation diagnosis in November 2021. He started all 3 FDA approved medications as soon as they were available. John's ALSFRS-R score was constant at 44 points with no spreading yet and noticeable atrophy in left arm and hand. Currently, he is under VA care, does PT on his own, daily, partakes in moderate exercise and watches his diet.