

**Representative Jeff Reardon
District 48 and other representatives:**

My husband was a well regarded Forest Engineer for the BLM here in Salem, Oregon. He managed the BLM land from the Alsea Area from Corvallis to the coast several years until he had to retire because of MSA.

He found his balance was going and he know longer could go out into the woods and walk up and down the hills and canyons. His hand writing was getting hard to read and his voice difficult to understand. My husband was able to take the Civil Engineer and Surveying license tests after graduating from OSU and passed. He started out as a Forest Engineer for the BLM after graduation in Roseburg Oregon. From there he went to Reno Nevada and then down to Las Vegas for three months to start the Red Rock Canyon Park in 1966. I just took my grand daughter down there to see the Park as it is today. It now has a visitor Center, 35 paved miles of one way road and many turn outs for people to stop, park and hike. There was nothing there in 1966. It is now a destination place for many all over the United States. Jack's career was cut short from MSA.

Many doctors did not know what was causing his problems and it took several years to find out what was happening. Some who are diagnosed with Parkinson's actually have MSA. The one of the deciding factors is upon standing the sudden drop of ones blood pressure. Going to a doctor and having them take your blood pressure sitting down does not find the problem. If Parkinson's medicine is given, it is found not effected. Unfortunately there is know known cure, but many of us have had our loved ones brain donated after death for research. We hope to find a reason for the disorder and hopefully a cure so others do not have to slowly loose their autonomic system and end up in a wheel chair and then death. One usually dies within 7 – 10 years with MSA.

We had a support group meet in our home for several years and then OSHU asked if we could move it up to Portland there so more people could attend. Charmayne who has sent testimony was part of our support group.

Sincerely,
Judy Mears