

Champion Philip Isaac

Stow, OH



Diagnosis date: February 1978

What was your first symptom? I could not see in my left eye.

How does MS affect your daily life? I must plan every day when and how my energy is to be used. I have to foresee any barriers I may encounter when leaving my house to go to another location and plan extra time to accomplish any task. It affects my ability to work, play sports, get into my friend's houses, and get in and out of my house.

In August 2011 I received a Service Dog from Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. in Swanton, Ohio. My dog, Sammy, helps me in many ways. Just to name a few:

- He goes upstairs and retrieves papers off the printer and brings them downstairs to me.
- He picks up anything I drop and gives it to me like pens, keys, and credit cards.
- When I say "shoes" he finds my shoes and brings them to me.
- When I say "phone" he finds and brings the phone to me.
- He opens doors and drawers and shuts them.
- He goes outside to bring in the paper and mail.

The energy he saves me is huge.

Why is Bike MS or the Ohio Buckeye Chapter important to you? The money that is raised helps all MS sufferers as they have to make adaptations (such as equipment) to accommodate their illness and continue to function effectively in their home and also to continue to be a productive part of society and to live life to its fullest.

How has the National MS Society helped you, or how have you been involved with the Society? Over 32 years the National MS society has helped me with wheelchairs, ramps and lifts to maintain my independence. The support groups help people to meet other people with MS who are having similar or different experiences with the disease.

What is your message to the riders? Never question "What if?" Live each day as it comes. Don't consider anything a barrier, unless you have tried it! Thank you for raising money for MS & have fun!

Favorite movie: Big Jake and the Blues Brothers.

Favorite musician: 3 Dog Night, Jimmy Buffet, and all old rock and roll and country.

Hobbies/pastimes: Traveling and spending time with family.

What is something most people don't know about you? I am an Eagle Scout.

Who is your hero? My wife of 35 years.

Identifier: Wine corks.