



# Bright Light Foundation

## Linda Adams

*2013 BLF Recipient*



My name is Linda Rentrop Adams, married to Joseph B. Adams of Patterson, Louisiana. We have been married for 34 years and we have 3 wonderful children and 4 awesome grandchildren.

Cooper, our dog is our best friend for life. We were enjoying and living a fulfilled life, when on December 15, 2008 at the early age of 52, life certainly changed for me and my family. I scheduled an office visit to see Dr. Mary Allen and was sent to see Dr. Gervais, a neurologist. He couldn't make a diagnosis at that time, although I was responding to medication. So, we were on our way to see Dr. Rao at Ochsner in New Orleans, Louisiana. It was then that I was misdiagnosed with Parkinson's. Several months prior to my diagnosis I began noticing that my typing wasn't up to par and that I began having a slight tremor in my fingers along with slowed coordination on my left side.

After a year or two Dr. Rao retired, so I began seeing Dr. Georgia Lea, who then noticed that I was not responding to

medications. After adjusting medications for several months and not responding well, she then said that I probably had PSP (Progressive Supra nuclear Palsy). We decided we would like a second opinion, so in January of 2012 Dr. Lea referred us to Baylor Medical Clinic in Houston, Tx., the clinic specializes in Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders. At Baylor we saw Dr. MaryAnn Thenganatt. Upon a complete examination and a list of answers to her questions she felt that I did in fact have Parkinson's disease and not PSP. Everything changed for us again on March 15, 2013, after several visits to Baylor and with the adjustment of medications without improvement; I was then diagnosed with A Typical Parkinsonism with MSA (Multiple System Atrophy). Parkinson's disease is not fatal, MSA has a terminal prognosis. The symptoms and effects of MSA are not widely known as it is a rare neurological disease. As a MSA patient I suffer with difficulty swallowing, talking, balance, chronic bowel irregularity, and postural orthostatic hypertension which will ultimately lead to the complete stiffness of muscles and then death.

So today, my thoughts are with my loving family and many friends that I am thankful to know. I am barely able to speak loud enough to be heard. I spend most of my days and nights in our home with 24 hour care givers. I enjoy and treasure the company of my husband, children, grandchildren, friends, family and caregivers. I wish to convey all of my love to each one of you. And may your days be blessed with the love of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.