

Remembering John Ready: An inspiring life in the laryngectomy community

John Ready was an amazing man, advocate and inspiration to so many — the true definition of an ambassador for the laryngectomy community. We share with you this tribute to our friend and Atos Patient Ambassador.



John was born and raised in San Mateo County, near San Francisco. After high school, he worked for the financial, real estate, sales and technology industries.

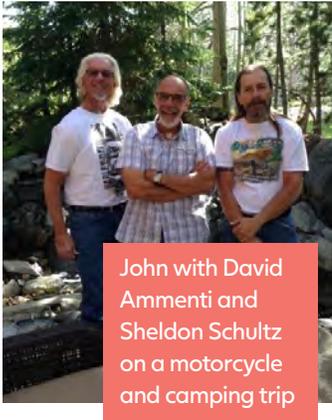
In 1996, he was diagnosed with laryngeal cancer and underwent a total laryngectomy with primary tracheoesophageal puncture on September 20. He was closely reminded of this day by the picture of his larynx and surgery date tattooed on his arm. After his surgery 25 years ago, John dedicated his life to giving back to the laryngectomy community. In the shadow of his diagnosis, he started the Get Voicing organization. Its mission is to provide support to the laryngectomy community through various outreach programs to patients, their families and caregivers — as well as students and healthcare professionals. In addition, he would advocate to younger people about the risks associated with using alcohol, drugs and tobacco.

John's commitment to the community ran deep — supporting patients and their families through advocacy, education and inspiration. When John would meet with patients and their caregivers, you could see and hear their relief. He was a source of positivity and reassurance who left them with hope and encouragement to live fulfilling lives despite their life-altering surgery. After meeting with John, patients were regularly inspired to achieve what John had

The Atos Medical US office will be closed on **Monday, June 20, 2022** in observance of Juneteenth.

See "John Ready" on page 2

“John Ready” continued from page 1



John with David Ammenti and Sheldon Schultz on a motorcycle and camping trip

throughout his rehabilitation, particularly that of becoming a hands-free speaker and patient ambassador. In addition, he worked closely with clinicians in the community to provide a patient perspective of the importance of peer-to-peer support for patients and their families alike. The one hobby John enjoyed just as much as meeting with patients or clinicians or lecturing to a room full of speech pathology graduate students, was riding his Harley listening to “Windows Are Rolled Down” and enjoying all the outdoors had to offer.

John’s contributions to the laryngectomy community are endless. His legacy lives on with his four children and five grandchildren, all those he inspired and his sweet dog, Sister Bear.

Meet the Patient Ambassadors: Tony Talmich



Anthony Augustine Talmich was born in Pueblo, CO in 1957. Being the youngest of seven siblings, his easy going nature and ready smile came in handy. In high school, his family moved to Colorado Springs where Tony spent his spare time playing football and honing his drum skills. After playing with several local bands, Tony joined The USO Band and traveled the country entertaining on military bases. Later, he migrated to South Florida where musical opportunities were in abundance. Tony not only played drums but sang with a variety of bands.



In mid-January of 1990, he developed a serious case of laryngitis which ultimately brought him to an ER where he was diagnosed with throat cancer. Dr. Fingerer, a premier cranial-facial cancer surgeon, said that Tony was one of only two emergency laryngectomy surgeries that he performed in his entire career. On January 24, 1990, Tony lost his ability to speak with no time to prepare physically or emotionally. Since he never smoked cigarettes, he attributed his cancer to secondhand smoke from all the clubs and music venues where he performed.

Tony quickly recovered and immediately mastered speech with an electrolarynx (EL). This came easy to him due to his youth and musical orientation. He also practiced endlessly until he had mastered esophageal speech. Tony spent a lot of time speaking to high school students about the dangers of smoking in addition to working with people new to laryngectomy by teaching them to speak with an EL.

Tony’s musical career soared despite his inability to sing. He worked with a world renowned Elvis impersonator, a Jersey Boys Tribute band and several well-known oldies bands including The Crests (“Sixteen Candles”).

Recently, Tony has been experimenting with singing again and has posted several of his accomplishments on YouTube® for your listening pleasure. He and his wife have also relocated to Connecticut where they are residing in a charming and vibrant community. He is a member of a local rock band, The Jam Factory, who were extremely active until the pandemic hit and are expecting to be active again soon. For the last couple of years, Tony has been working with people new to laryngectomy via Zoom® and FaceTime®, helping people around the world.



Tony with his wife Laura, who contributed this article.

Attend a MyLife event: Now virtual or in-person options

Atos is delighted to announce the return of in-person, community-based MyLife events! We will offer both in-person and virtual opportunities to allow you to enjoy meetings together or connect with others from the comfort of home. Atos remains committed to providing a platform to share support, resources and some time to socialize with the laryngectomy community through MyLife events.

The topic, **Provox® Life™: Optimizing quality of life**, will continue through June. Many users have said that Provox Life HMEs are easier to breathe through and the adhesives are more skin-friendly. Best of all, there is no change to your daily routine as you use them in the same way as your current products. Discussion will include:

- An up-close look at the Provox Life HMEs and attachments
- How the improved HMEs can enable you to do more of the activities you love through an optimized balance of humidification and breathability
- An opportunity to share your experience with Provox Life and hear what others have to say

Register to join an event near you on the **COMMUNITY** tab of www.atosmedical.us or call our events team at **1.800.217.0025**.



Seasonal Changes: It's allergy season

For many of us, springtime and warmer weather means spending more time outdoors. During allergy season, consider using Provox® Life™ Protect for extra protection when the pollen count is high.

Did you know that Provox Life Protect is an HMEF – an HME with a filter. It not only heats and humidifies the air you breathe in to reduce coughing and mucus production, it also filters the air to protect you from viruses, bacteria, microorganisms, dust –and pollen.*



Consider Provox Life Protect HME during allergy season or anytime you need extra protection such as when cutting the lawn or gardening.

The IAL Annual Meeting: Back in-person

The International Association of Laryngectomees (IAL) will hold their Annual Meeting and Voice Institute June 15 - 18, 2022 in Charlotte, North Carolina. This conference offers opportunities for people who have had a laryngectomy, their family members, graduate students, speech-language pathologists and other healthcare professionals to learn from and with each other.

This year, there will be an opportunity to meet Bill Brummel for a special showing of his documentary, "Can You Hear My Voice?" Find out about the new educational and informative laryngectomy website that recently launched. To see the agenda and to register, visit www.theial.com. Direct questions to ialvoiceinstitute@gmail.com. Be sure to stop by the Atos Medical tables, we look forward to seeing you!

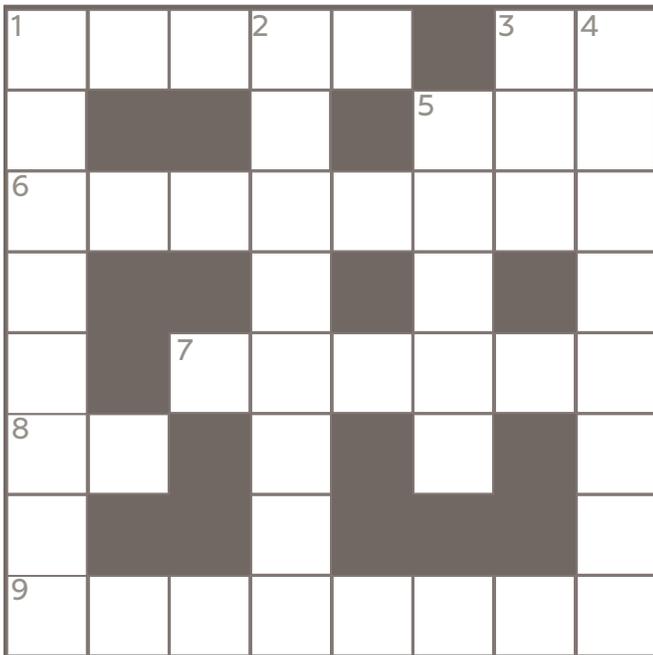
* PLEASE NOTE: Since pathogens can enter and leave the human body in other ways (such as the mouth, nose and eyes) Provox® Life Protect HME can never guarantee complete protection. Filtration capacity may vary depending on the size, shape and speed of airborne particles. | Data on file

Crossword answer key (page 4)

1	N	I	X	O	N		3	A	4	L
	E			U			5	M	A	E
6	C	H	A	T	R	O	O	M		
	K			D		O		O		
	T			7	P	O	L	L	E	N
8	I	A				A		A		
	E			R						D
9	S	O	L	S	T	I	C	E		

Just for fun!

Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 The US President who made Father's Day a permanent holiday
- 3 Jolson, Franken or Roker
- 5 ___ West quote, "...come up and see me sometime?"
- 6 A virtual place where a group can have a meeting or discussion
- 7 This can be hard to avoid in the spring when counts are high
- 8 Abbreviation for Iowa
- 9 This occurs in June and December when the path of the sun is farthest north or south of the Equator

DOWN

- 1 These remain the most common gift on Father's Day
- 2 In spring and summer, many people start to venture into the great _____
- 3 American Academy of Otolaryngology abbreviation
- 4 When life gives you sour, yellow, citrus fruit, make this
- 5 Slang for money