

Hello My name is Michael Razzi I want to thank the panel for inviting me to this discussion Alzheimers care I currently reside in St

Marys county, MD. My experience with this disease is personal for me. In 2015 my father was diagnosed with both Alzheimers and dementia. I remember the nurse at the hospital said that to my mother that your husband can no longer live at home he will need to be placed in an assisted care facility. We had no one to turn too we did not know what to do as we were thrusted in this dilemma. Not to mention The enormous cost and the emotional toll it took on our family.

In 2017 my father passed away at age 86 to a better place. But remaining were my family and I left picking up the pieces on the financial and emotional toll that it took on our family.

In 2019 at the age of 58 I was employed with Lockheed Martin as an Avionic electrician on the CH 53k Helicopters program. I was both in the prime of my life and my and my earnings potential. It was shortly after a recent heart attack that I was experiencing issues with my memory despite my front row seat with my fathers illness, i just didn't see it.

At my doctors care I was evaluated with a battery of cognitive testing and a CAT, MRI and an EEG my neurologist showed me the CAT scan and asked if anybody explained this to me. I said only my doctor over the phone. She explained the films showed the Alzheimers attacking my Brian as I became extremely frightened and felt extremely alone with this news. She wanted to run more testing to confirm what she suspected. And this time using a using PET scan. My doctor sat me down and explained to me that i had early onset of Alzheimers. I'm thinking to myself that I'm living with a disease that comes to kill steal and destroy based on my father own experience.

Eventually I learned through my own self seeking through neurologist and counselors and especially the Alzheimers organization provided me with a support group of people with my own age group called called "YES" Young Early Onset of Alzheimers Support in Baltimore county. It was a Godsend and it helped pull me out of a depression as I did not feel so alone and there I could share my story with others like myself. People who don't have this diagnosis can't really relate but a person who does has walked the same journey as I have. I'am no longer employed as this this was an extremely big blow to me and my self worth. I had to learn to reinvent my self and find my self worth in who I was as a person not what I did. This was another life lesson I had to learn.

My life has been filled with new challenges as I'm reminded not to walk this journey alone. I'm concerned as this disease develops as I live alone how I'm going to navigate life challenges. As long as I have support and I can make difference to others with this deviating disease I believe I can bring hope and support to others that are just beginning my journey. I learned its not what happens to you but rather how am I going to respond to bring light oil the world.