

# My Story...

## Bob Kuprion's Story

My hearing loss I suspect has been with me all my life starting as a child but it was such a small loss that it went under the radar. I recall as a child laying in the grass, watching the clouds roll by and wondering what absolute silence would be like. I did not realize at the time every other person and child did not constantly hear crickets as I did. I never spoke of it as I thought it was common to all people, adults and children. I had no idea then what tinnitus is. I had never heard of it

The army accepted me as I was, more than I can say for my 14 former wives (lol), flat feet and all. The army said nothing about my ears ringing or a lack of good hearing. Years later many friends told me they noticed my hearing abilities were much lower after returning from service. Military training with all its loud booms, etc and later as an army photographer covering training of crews training for tanks, canons, and pretend battles I am sure did not help.

So as time marched on I became an adult, a worker, a father, and went upon my way. Then I found myself becoming upset at my teen age daughter at the dinner table whispering all the time and not including me in her conversations.

Golly, what a shock years later to find it was me who was not listening because I could not hear. Hate to admit but in that respect I was an unfair dad to my kids. I am so happy that my daughter and I have a very close bond and she puts up with much amenability to my lack of hearing. Must be a macho thing that us men resist admitting we cannot hear. Well after years of stupidity on my part I came to realize it is not very macho not to have a clue of what is going on because I cannot hear. I can testify that no one laughs at me because I have hearing aids, (maybe before they did but I could not hear them) and no bully has ever kicked sand in my face at the beach since I got hearing aids.

The event that added the most to the quality of my life in regards to my hearing problem was my discovery of the Hearing Loss Association of America chapters in Kentucky. I personally am a member of the Kentuckiana Chapter in Louisville and also attend the Bardstown Home meetings in Bardstown on a regular basis. My hearing aids are my crutch, but the knowledge of how to live my life in a pleasant manner with my hearing loss has all come from attending the hearing chapter meetings. Wonderfully a

great bonus for me of attending the chapter meetings and events is the many life long friends I have made and cherish. Those many friends from the various hearing chapters have given me the education and love to cope with this invisible malady of not hearing too well.

One of the worse things I found about my hearing loss was the often feeling of being alone, being left out. The hearing chapters eliminated those problems for me. The hearing aids, although not a cure, have been a great booster to me up the confidence ladder, the hearing chapters are my life support and foundation for a good quality of life.

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