

May 14, 2015

For the past ten months, Debra W. has been facing an uphill battle. Debra, a United States Navy veteran, was diagnosed with ALS at the Hines VA Hospital in July. As is the case with most familial ALS, once the symptoms started they quickly intensified. Mobility around the home, specifically her curved staircase, became an issue.



Debra was a Navy Sea Bee for almost ten years. She retired as a 2<sup>nd</sup> class Petty Officer and transferred to the Air Force Reserves. In addition to her service, Debra has been in the International Union of Operational Engineers for 25 years. Last April, Debra presented with right handed weakness. In the following months it became more pronounced. Coupled with the loss of strength to her right leg, the Air Force moved her to CTK. Debra is currently undergoing treatment, but her mobility has suffered.

As a contract provider for the VA, EHLS was directed by the Prosthetics Department at the Hines VA to evaluate and assess the mobility issues facing Debra in a determined effort to improve her quality of life. Debra had not been downstairs to the living area or kitchen to make a meal in over a month and any visit to the hospital required her husband, friends, or neighbors carrying her down the stairs in a wheelchair. EHLS recommended a custom curved stairlift to help Debra regain her independence.

David and Jose, two EHLS team members, arrived at Debra's house on May 4<sup>th</sup> to install her stairlift. Although her speech has deteriorated over the past three months, her excitement as she made her independent maiden voyage up and down the stairs was unmistakable.

EHLS is proud to partner with organizations such as the VA to provide comfort and accessibility to those who have given so much in return. Regardless of physical condition, your home should never inhibit your lifestyle. With the proper accessible modifications Debra Worth is finally able to live comfortably in the home she loves and EHLS appreciates the opportunity to help.

