



## A Message From Caregiver Rosa Payne

Rosa Payne's husband, Marvell, was diagnosed with dementia in 2004. Married 56 years, these Alzheimer's Champions work tirelessly to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease in communities across the United States.

Dear J.,

I noticed something wasn't right with my husband, Marvell, when he got lost driving. At first, it happened when we were traveling; when it started happening locally, I took him to the doctor and he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

At the time, Marvell was a semi-retired stone mason who was used to being busy. But now he couldn't work in the same way – he'd start a project, but then he'd forget to go back and finish. **He'd get frustrated and then I'd get frustrated.**

A friend told me about the Alzheimer's Association and I started going to support groups to learn how to cope and how to help Marvell cope. The support groups are filled with **individuals affected by Alzheimer's, all who are facing different situations that you can learn from.** We talk about our families and share tips.

Marvell speaks publically about his fight with Alzheimer's. We do TV and radio interviews and we explain that Alzheimer's is nothing to be ashamed of. **We want to raise awareness**, especially in the African-American community. And we need help to fight Alzheimer's – we need government support and [funding](#).

The Alzheimer's Association has been a valuable source for information, support and socialization. If someone you love has

### Support individuals with Alzheimer's and their caregivers

- An estimated 5.3 million people have Alzheimer's
- 6th leading cause of death in the U.S.
- \$172 billion spent caring for people with Alzheimer's last year

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Alzheimer's, I encourage you to reach out to the Association for help.

[Please make a donation](#) so that the Alzheimer's Association can continue to help all who need it.

With thanks,

Rosa Payne



Caregiver Rosa Payne

"You've got to get support. The Alzheimer's Association is there to help, 24 hours a day."

Rosa talks about her experience with Alzheimer's disease and how the Alzheimer's Association has helped her cope. [GO >](#)

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The [Alzheimer's Association](#) is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's disease.

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