

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (**ALS**), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, weakens and eventually destroys the body's motor neurons, making functions such as walking and talking very difficult. Paralysis generally follows after diagnosis. While the exact cause of ALS is unknown, risk factors include aging and a family history of disease. Most people who contract the disease are between the ages of 40 and 70, though younger people can also be affected.

**Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)** Provides support for veterans with ALS. Here's how.

1. **VA Medical Centers and Clinics:** PVA connects Veterans to VA Medical centers and outpatient clinics, across the country. Many VA Centers now have specialized ALS clinics with teams of ALS specialists who provide coordinated, Veteran-centric care. Attending these clinics can play a critical role in improving quality of life and the possibility of extending life expectancy.
2. **Advocacy and Benefits assistance:** PVA has helped thousands of veterans with ALS file claims for benefits and ensures they receive specialized, comprehensive health care through the VA.