



**THE JOSEPH GROH
FOUNDATION**
A Beacon of Hope

The Lighthouse- From our Founder Joe Groh

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Lighthouse! Since this is being written in late summer, you might say the 100+ degree days are now "behind us." Very much still with us! On average, we have twenty 100°+ days a year; however, that can be a misnomer. We have had forty-three 100°+ days, and as I write this, the thermometer says 107°. The end is in sight, however. I see some 98° and 99° days in the forecast over the next 10 days... sprinkled in with some more 101° days. At least it's a dry heat.

The 13th annual Chicago golf tournament is at the end of September, and the Service Nation Expo is in Las Vegas from November 9-11. Those will be our last major fundraisers in 2026. If you are connected to the contracting industry and are located in the Chicago or Las Vegas area, check out these events to see how you can participate! See details below.

Next, read about the latest breakthrough regarding stem cell transplantation and spinal cord injuries. Following that, read the latest updates about the efforts in Israel to cure spinal cord injuries. We had first written about this a few issues back in The Lighthouse. Will we still be constructing buildings 20 or 50 years from now? Will people working in these trades still incur permanent, life-altering injuries? We believe so; read how the Foundation is working to make sure our grants are still available then.

Voyage Magazine started off in LA and has since grown to Dallas and a number of other "amazing cities." They think independent entrepreneurs, freelancers, and other risk takers make the cities they write about exciting places to live. Recently, The Joseph Groh Foundation was featured in their *Inspiring Stories Series* in *Voyage Dallas*. Read below about how you can link to this publication, and we invite you to reply and share your findings with the whole Dallas community!



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Arthur David Ullian was a lifelong Bostonian real estate developer who died recently after a brief battle with pneumonia. He attended Milton Academy and the London School Of Economics, and in 1978 co-founded The Boston Land Company, which today manages numerous residential apartment properties in 5 states. In addition, his family owns the Eliot Hotel, a Boston icon on Commonwealth Avenue, which has become one of the top-rated boutique hotels in the country. A bicycling accident in 1991 left Arthur paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair. His determination to make something positive in his new circumstances makes him Someone You Should Know.

Finally, your favorite column (or at least mine) – A Day in the Life. Enjoy!

A Message From Our President

As we move through another busy summer, I want to take a moment to introduce myself and say how honored I am to serve as President of The Joseph Groh Foundation.

I've had the opportunity to watch this foundation grow from one idea born out of personal crisis into an organization that has made a meaningful difference in the lives of people and families facing life-changing circumstances. Making a home accessible, providing needed equipment, or helping someone regain a little independence can have an enormous impact on their quality of life.

As President, one of my goals is to continue to drive support to those who need us, but also to expand awareness of the Foundation, strengthen our relationships throughout the construction and HVAC industries, and find new ways to engage people who want to make a difference. None of what we do happens without our donors, sponsors, volunteers, board members, and industry partners. Thank you for continuing to believe in our mission and for helping us turn generosity into tangible assistance for people who truly need it.

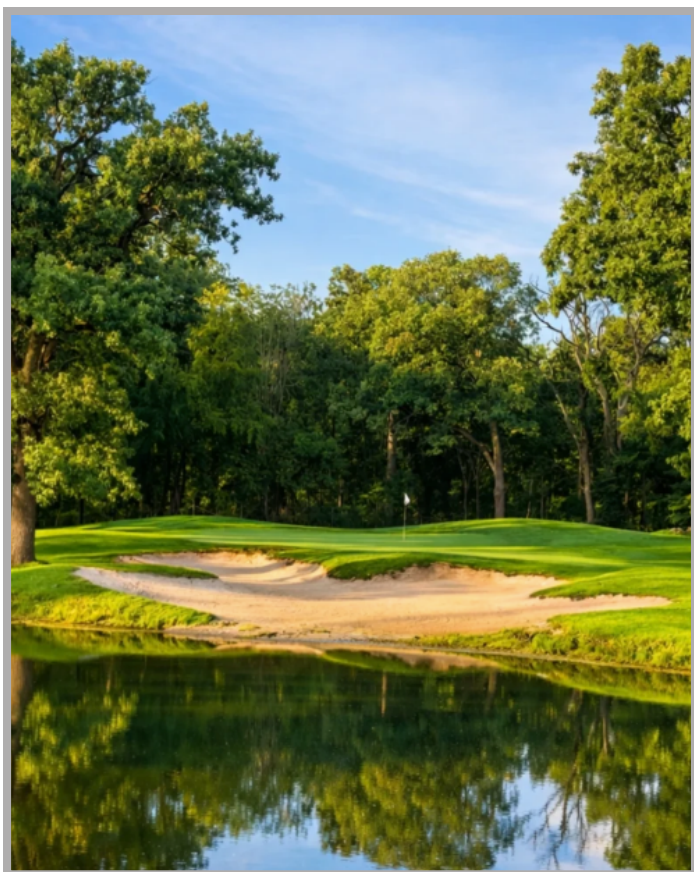
I'm excited about what lies ahead and look forward to sharing more with you in future editions of the Lighthouse.



Sincerely,

Eric Groh

Our Last Major Fundraisers of 2026 - Chicago



Thursday, September 24

Seven Bridges GC, Woodridge, Illinois

As we look ahead to The Joseph Groh Foundation's final fundraiser of the year, we're taking a moment to celebrate what makes these events so meaningful: the generosity, partnership, and continued support of the HVAC industry.

On September 24, the Foundation will gather with golfers, sponsors, and industry partners at Seven Bridges Golf Club just outside Chicago for the 13th Annual Ruskin-Titus Tournament. More than another day on the course, this tournament marks the close of another successful fundraising season and the collective effort to support individuals living with life-altering disabilities.

The Foundation extends a heartfelt thank-you to our title sponsors, **Titus, Ruskin & Air Products Equipment**, for their continued commitment and support. Their partnership, along with the generosity of our sponsors, golfers, and industry partners throughout the year, helps make the Foundation's mission possible and allows us to continue providing meaningful assistance to those who need it most.



The tournament will offer plenty of opportunities for camaraderie and fun, from a shotgun start and on-course contests to raffles featuring Foundation swag and a celebratory prize package featuring one of Joe's favorites, Blanton's Bourbon.

Set against the backdrop of early fall in the Chicago area, Seven Bridges Golf Club provides a beautiful setting for bringing the industry together. The highly regarded public course, rated four stars by Golf Digest, features mature 100-year-old oaks, picturesque views, and, of course, seven bridges.

Most importantly, the tournament gives us one more opportunity this year to come together around a shared purpose. The tournament brochure highlights recent grant recipients and their stories, offering a glimpse into the life-changing impact made possible through the Foundation's supporters.

As we close out another year of fundraising events, we are grateful to everyone who has helped make 2026 a meaningful year for The Joseph Groh Foundation. We look forward to celebrating with you in Chicago and raising a glass to another year of giving back.

Visit josephgrohfoundation.org for this year's brochure and to see photos from past tournaments.

Voyage Dallas - An Interview with Joseph Groh



The Joseph Groh Foundation Board Members
From L to R: Sue Huckabee; Vicki LaPlant; Eric Groh; Joseph Groh; Tim Wright; Kirk Thorne; Tawnya Strittmatter.

VoyageDallas

The Voyage group of magazines was started in Los Angeles with their flagship publication *Voyage LA*. After generating their first million page views in LA, they knew their content was resonating with the Texas community. They have since grown to Dallas and a handful of other amazing cities with the help of a network of friends, associates, local insiders and influencers, PR firms, local bloggers, artists, creatives, entrepreneurs, and others.

Voyage believes Dallas is an incredible city – but that it's grown so fast and so diverse that many are missing out on tons of great people, businesses, organizations, events, and more. *Voyage Dallas* wants to highlight the best of Dallas, and in July 2026 interviewed Joe to learn more about his background and the start of The Joseph Groh Foundation. You can read the article online here.

<https://voyagedallas.com/interview/conversations-with-joseph-groh>

Service World Expo

Las Vegas - November 9-11, 2026

Title Sponsor - Service Nation



The #1 Expo for residential HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and home service contractors will be held at Caesars Forum in Las Vegas from November 9-11, 2026.

Business leaders gather here for real-world strategies, contractor-led education, and to build connections that will move the needle in your business! Online registration is available now at <https://serviceworldexpo.com/register>

THE JOSEPH GROH FOUNDATION

A Beacon of Hope

Luminary - a person who influences or inspires others.

Become a Joseph Groh Foundation luminary, and give the invaluable gift of hope, today, and every day.

LUMINARY DETAILS

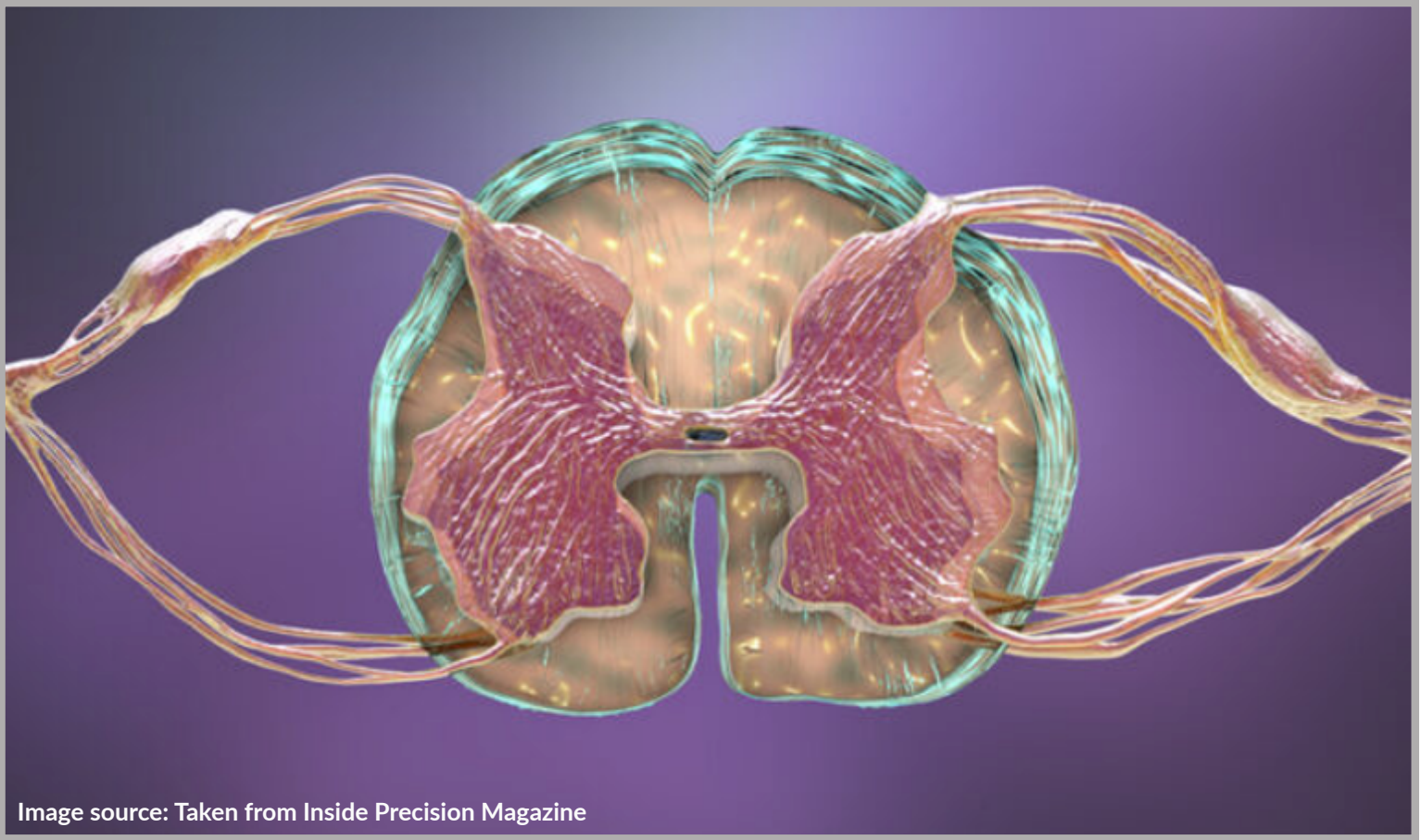
- Monthly giving program starting at only \$10 per month
- Benefits include exclusive content, thank you gift and individual recognition

www.josephgrohfoundation.org/luminary

Luminary Levels

Shine | Radiance | Brilliance | Beacon | Lighthouse

What's New in Stem Cell Therapy Research



Researchers from Keio University School of Medicine in Japan recently transplanted neural stem cells into the injured spinal cords before men with recent, complete cervical spinal cord injuries.

Spinal cord injury affects more than 20 million people worldwide and often results in permanent paralysis because the adult spinal cord is only limited capacity to regenerate. Current treatments focusing on surgery and rehabilitation can stabilize the injury but cannot rebuild the damage neural circuits responsible for movement and sensation.

About 2 million cells were injected directly into each patient's spinal cord injury site 2 to 4 weeks after injury while patients received temporary immunosuppressive therapy to reduce the risk of rejection.

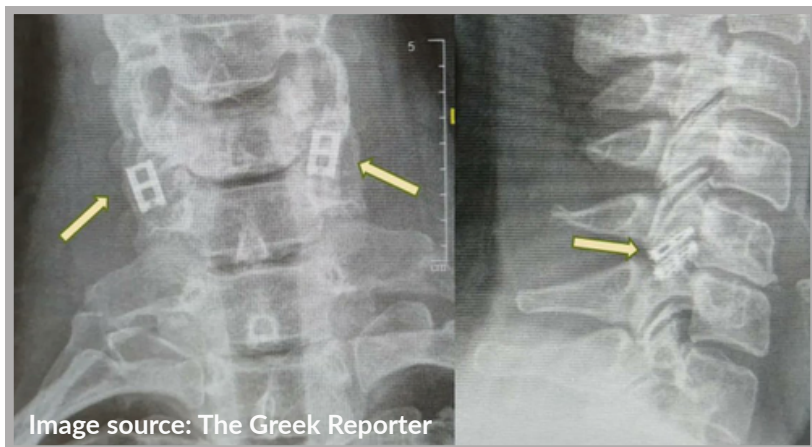
The trial met its primary objective. Researchers observed no tumor formation, abnormal cell growth, or other serious complications during the 52-week study.

Imaging studies likewise revealed no evidence of graft related abnormalities, addressing one of the fields greatest concerns regarding therapies derived from stem cells.

All safety was the primary endpoint, investigators also tracked neurological recovery. All 4 participants showed improvements in motor function, and to improved enough to advance from complete paralysis (ASIA Grade A to Grade C or D) That means they went from having no movement or sensation below the point of injury to having some movement and sensation below the point of injury. For more information about this exciting breakthrough, please go to:

<https://www.insideprecisionmedicine.com/topics/translational-research/spinal-cord-injury-stem-cell-transplant-clears-phase-i-improves-motor-scores/>

Follow-Up on the Race to Cure Spinal Cord Injuries in Israel



In the fall 2025 issue of *The Lighthouse*, (Issue 37) we introduced you to world groundbreaking work being undertaken by the Israelis to not rehab, not repair but actually Replace a human spinal cord, thereby allowing the recipient to walk once again. We have been closely watching the wires for updated information, and in this article we bring you the latest.

Israel is preparing to perform the world's first spinal cord transplant using lab grown in tissue created from a patient's own cells in a breakthrough that could restore movement to people with paralysis! The procedure which has received initial approval from Israel's Ministry of Health Is expected to take place within months and marks a major milestone in regenerative medicine.

The professor who leads the research at Tel Aviv University's Center for Regenerative Biotechnology explained that the spinal cord functions much like an electrical cable, carrying signals from the brain to the rest of the body. When the spinal cord is severely injured through trauma, the connection is cut, thereby preventing signals from passing through.

Unlike other tissues in the body, spinal neurons do not regenerate naturally, and scar tissue further blocks any remaining signals. The process begins by reprogramming a patient's blood cells into stemlike cells capable of becoming any cell type. These materials are combined to grow a three-dimensional spinal cord segment which is then implanted at the injury site to bridge the damaged area and reconnect nerve pathways.

In trials with rats possessing chronic spinal cord injuries, they regained the ability to walk after receiving the implant. The Israeli Ministry of Health has approved the procedure for 8 patients, all Israelis. The entire technology from concept to clinical stage was developed in Israel. It is hoped the first ever of this kind of surgery will happen in 2027.

Stay tuned!

6 in 10
people worry
about the
financial impact
of a disability,
yet only **30%**
own disability
insurance.



Source: LIMRA and Life Happens 2013 Insurance Barometer Study

Protect your paycheck with disability insurance.



2026 RUSKIN-TITUS TOURNAMENT FOR THE JOSEPH GROH FOUNDATION
Seven Bridges GC, Woodridge, Illinois

Sept. 24, 2026

josephgrohfoundation.org

The Joseph Groh Foundation Launches an Endowment Campaign

The need for what our foundation provides is constant and pervasive. We are finding that the more awareness we are able to achieve, the more demand there is for our grants. Do you think that will be true in 20 or even 50 years from now, or will medical miracles make these problems of the past? We are betting all in on the former.

For the first 17 years of our existence, we operated exclusively as an all-volunteer board. That means we handled all of the administrative functions associated with our events, all accounting associated with fundraising and grant dispersing, all on-site functions, all planning and follow-through, etc. For about the first 16 years we operated as sort of a “friends and family” board. Other than the cost of fundraising (i.e. the cost of golf course etc.) 100% of donations that anyone made to our foundation went directly to grant recipients. In order to be transparent about that, we joined an organization called GuideStar, and all our financial etc. documents were available for anyone to see there. We received their highest ratings for transparency.

In about 2020 however, we took stock of the future, given that all of us were growing older, and that if the Foundation were to endure, we needed to start putting in place the needed steps now. Our first step was to decide if we wanted the Foundation to continue. The vote was unanimously yes. We realized at that point we needed to evolve from a “friends and family” board to more of a businesslike board. We began to plan accordingly.

We began a planning process we called Vision 25, which started to lay out what needed to happen in order for us to successfully bridge this transition. During that time, several family and friend board members resigned and were replaced with individuals targeted for their industry knowledge, access, but most importantly, passion for what we do. Without the passion, there was no selection. Part of the planning in Vision 25 was finding a person or organization that can handle our administrative load.

Since 2009, that had been handled almost exclusively by Joseph Groh, and it represented a nearly full-time position. In 2025, we continued the planning process with Vision 30, which laid out the steps needed to fully implement our plans. We began working within individual to be our part-time Executive Director, but they left. After a subsequent individual left for greater opportunities, we realized we needed to take a different tack.

Through a board member recommendation we connected with Beacon Association Management, a South Carolina based organization that works with organizations in a wide variety of business related functions. We began working with them in 2025, and by 2027 they will be fully responsible for running our golf tournaments. They have the capacity to help our foundation in many more ways beyond that as well. In 2027, Joseph Groh will continue to liaise with Beacon, but will increasingly be engaging in outreach with other aspects of the contracting and construction industry to build awareness, fundraising, and endowments.

The Role of the Endowment

The Joseph Groh Foundation is at a point where we can no longer rely on an all-volunteer staff to handle required administrative needs. An endowment fund provides long-term stability by generating income to cover basic administrative and operational costs.

This allows us to outsource these functions without using donor dollars, ensuring that every future donation outside the endowment continues to go directly to grant recipients like the individuals shown below. This is critical if the Foundation is going to continue as a resource to those in the trades living with permanent, life-altering disabilities in the years ahead. Recovery deserves certainty, and that is what The Joseph Groh Foundation has been providing since 2009 with your help.



Celeste Glover, Phoenix, AZ
Owner of Commercial/Residential
Construction Company

So what does our endowment campaign consist of? Simply put, the foundation seeks to raise an endowment fund from which only investment income will be withdrawn. We seek to build an investment base that will provide investment income that will pay for all of our administrative and fundraising costs, thereby allowing 100% of all donations and sponsorships to go directly and exclusively to grant recipients. A lofty dream? Perhaps. But a dream we believe in, and one we think that you will believe in also!

[Click here](#) and read the information on our endowment page. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact either Joseph or Eric Groh at the addresses below.

jgrohfoundation@gmail.com

eric.groh@josephgrohfoundation.org

Unrestricted Monetary Gifts

These contributions provide flexible, long-term support that allows the Foundation to respond to evolving needs while sustaining its mission. Ways to Contribute:

- One-time unrestricted monetary gifts
- Recurring monthly or annual donations
- Corporate contributions/sponsorship gifts
- Employer matching gifts
- Corporate philanthropy or community investment funds
- Employee-driven giving campaigns
- Memorial or honor gifts with no specified use
- Planned or legacy gifts

Unrestricted Non-Monetary Gifts

Unrestricted non-monetary gifts are welcomed from companies and individuals and may include in-kind contributions that support the Foundation's programs and operations. Ways to Contribute:

- Stocks
- Bonds
- Real Estate
- Estate-based gifts
- Professional services (legal, accounting, marketing, design, IT support)
- Event support, venue use, or catering services
- Media placements or creative services
- Board or advisory service
- Complimentary tickets or registration to industry events
- Fundraising or grant-writing guidance

Restricted Donor Funds

Restricted donor funds allow companies and individuals to direct their endowment contributions toward a specific purpose that aligns with The Joseph Groh Foundation's mission. These gifts ensure your philanthropic priorities are honored while creating lasting impact within the trades community.

The Joseph Groh Foundation is committed to honoring all donor-imposed restrictions. Endowment funds are stewarded with the highest level of care and responsibility and are governed by the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA). This framework ensures funds are managed prudently, ethically, and in strict accordance with donor intent today and for generations to come.

Why the Endowment Matters

From 2009 to 2025, 100% of every donation after fundraiser costs has gone directly to grants for trade professionals living with permanent, life-altering disabilities. That commitment has defined who we are.

The impact the Foundation has demonstrated why it is so important to continue this mission long after the original founders have gone. An endowment fund is critical to making this happen if the Foundation is going to be sustainable long into the future.

A well-secured endowment will allow the Foundation to generate even more awareness throughout the trades community and help an ever-increasing number of people.



Esequiel Rodriguez - Hutto, TX
Master Electrician

Securing the Future

Our goal is to build a \$3 million endowment by the end of 2030. With a conservative average investment return of 3.5%, the endowment will fully support anticipated administrative and fundraising costs.

The need which this Foundation addresses shows no sign of going away, but together we can ensure those needs are met today and well into the future.

Joseph Groh has been providing the majority of administrative assistance, and he will continue to be deeply involved with the Foundation, but with an evolving focus on building awareness and expanding support across the construction trades, especially in areas not yet familiar with our mission.

Arthur David Ullian - Someone You Should Know

Arthur was a lifelong Bostonian, real estate developer and champion of neurological research. He died on August 20, 2026 after a brief battle with pneumonia. He was born in Boston on February 22, 1939 and grew up in Newton. He attended The Dexter School, Milton Academy, Lawrence College and the London School of Economics.

In 1978 he cofounded the Boston Land Company which today manages numerous residential apartment properties in 5 states, many of which provide affordable housing for elderly and disabled individuals. His family also owns the Eliot Hotel, a Boston icon on Commonwealth Avenue.



Image and article courtesy of The Boston Globe

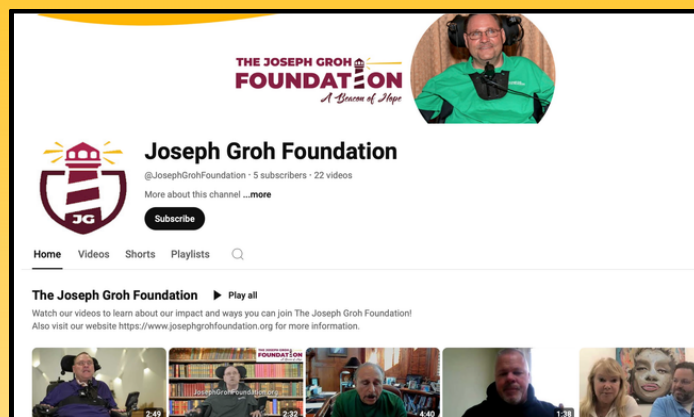
A bicycle accident in 1991 left him paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair. He was determined to make something positive of his new circumstances, and that led him to the world of neurobiology and medical research. From 1993 until 2010, he brought his considerable business acumen, passion and optimism to the goal of increasing federal appropriation process to the National Institutes of Health.

He formed the National Council on Spinal Cord Injury and became a familiar sight rolling through the halls of Congress, meeting with legislatures and convincing committee chairs to hold hearings calling attention to the value of finding cures. Initially focused on neurological conditions, he eventually targeted a wider range of chronic diseases and disorders including cancer, diabetes, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and ALS.

Expanding the umbrella proved to be a valuable strategy, helping him connect with senators whose own lives had been marked by serious health challenges. Arlen Specter, Bob Dole, Tom Harkin, Mark Hatfield, Bill Cohen, Connie Mack and Ted Kennedy became powerful allies in the mid-1990s.

His most valuable contribution to accelerating the pace of medical research came when he convened a task force that helped convince Congress and then Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan that US economic growth and prosperity is directly correlated to maintaining the health, longevity, and productivity of the workforce – including those who are disabled.

The work of the task force in concert with other prominent advocates including Christopher Reeve and Mary Tyler Moore resulted in the successful doubling of the NIH budget by 2003 from \$14 billion to \$28 billion. Widely acknowledged for his role in getting this budget increased, Arthur was named Public Leader of the Year by the American Academy of Neurology in 1998 and he received an Honorary Doctorate Of Letters from Rutgers University in 2004. For his last 35 years, he simply refused to let himself be defined by his physical limitations, and for that he is... Someone You Should Know!



Subscribe to
The Joseph Groh
Foundation YouTube
Channel!

A Day in the Life

This feature is a sometimes humorous, sometimes offbeat, and sometimes irreverent look at life as seen through the eyes of a severely disabled person. Management takes no responsibility for these ramblings.

Enigma

The definition of an enigma is something mysterious, puzzling, or difficult to understand. The first time I ever heard this term was as a child, reading historical books about the Allies' race to decipher German Enigma codes used in World War II. It became widely known in 2014 with the release of the movie *The Imitation Game*. Since my youth, I have only had a few occasions to witness something truly puzzling or difficult to understand.

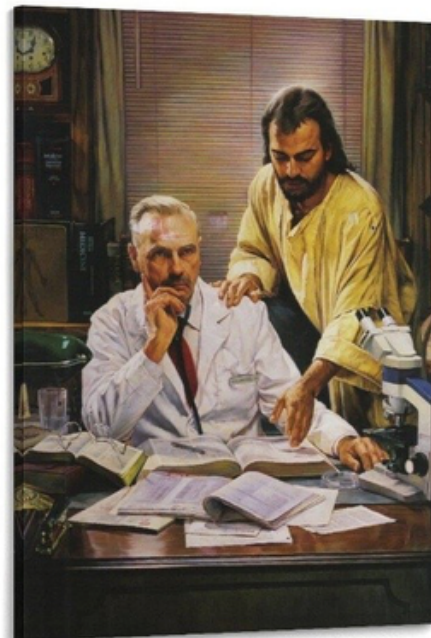
For example, when I was 14, I was very excited that the Cubs were about to win the pennant! They had been leading their division for almost 4 months and had a 9.5-game lead in mid-August. What followed was surely an enigma, as the Miracle Mets overtook the Cubs to win the pennant as well as the World Series. It would be another 47 years before the Cubs would become world champions.

I went to high school in Cincinnati during the years 1969-73. I had always been a baseball fan, first of the Cardinals when we lived in southern Missouri, then of the Cubs when we lived in central Illinois, and next of the Reds. This wasn't just any baseball team; however, this was the "Big Red Machine." I thought for sure they would win it all in 1970, but I was disappointed. Same thing in 1972. Only when I left town did they win it all in 75 and 76. Why they didn't win it earlier is surely an enigma.

In 1995, the Bears won the Super Bowl in the year of the "Super Bowl Shuffle." With their overwhelming performance that year, who would be wrong to expect a repeat performance? 1988 seemed to be that year. They went 12-4 and beat the Eagles in the infamous Fog Bowl at Soldier Field. Surely, the NFC title game would be when they would get revenge on San Francisco for losing the same game following the 1984 season. Despite having a team with many Super Bowl heroes, they lost this game 28-3. Why is anyone's guess, surely, an enigma.

I never thought of applying the term enigma in a medical sense until some years after my spinal cord injury. At one point, I had several pinkish/red spots appear on my right thigh, so I asked my PCP about it. He didn't know and didn't seem concerned-an enigma. I followed up with my dermatologist and was met with a double enigma. During one visit to an esteemed, nationally renowned hospital in the DFW Medical District, I asked about it one final time. A third and final enigma. That was some years ago, and it has more or less receded. Every once in a while, however, it brightens up just enough to let me know that it still resides in ignorance.

About 10 years after my initial injury, I began to develop a mysterious abdominal pain that I could not identify. My PCP decided to term it a "referred pain", although he did not say what the referring source was. I gathered it was an enigma. Over the past years, I have had 4 kidney operations and one bladder operation at the medical facility mentioned above, and each surgery was performed by a doctor who is nationally regarded in their field. Surely, they will help me get to the source of the vermin that is referring all this pain, but you guessed it. I guess I should've taken the clue from my PCP. It seems every time I met with him, a true man of faith, the portrait right outside this room was the one shown below, with the caption as described.



The Difficult Patient

Thank You Business Partners

