



Ed and Zern

California, USA

Edward Crane from Fresno, California, was diagnosed with epilepsy 36 years ago. Together with his seizure-alert service dog, Zern, he is on a mission to spread the word to the disabled community about how these special dogs can positively change one's life for the better.



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Being disabled with epilepsy has been very hard and challenging for me to deal with on a daily basis. But the fact that epilepsy is an invisible disability makes it truly challenging and so frustrating in so many different ways.

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The pressure is always there, but I successfully deal with it. I try to live my life in as normal a way as possible. I know the strength it takes to help me make it through the day when my body is failing me, even if no one can see it.

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International
Epilepsy Day

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When I was younger with epilepsy many of my friends after they experienced my seizures no longer remained as my friends. They had a fear and anxiety associated with my seizures and then shut me out of their lives. This made life more difficult for me.

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International
Epilepsy Day

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I try to stay focused to succeed in life with my invisible disability. I can't rely on others to increase awareness about my disabilities for me. I need to figure out how to maximize the exposure of my epilepsy, so I can increase public awareness and education about epilepsy.

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International
Epilepsy Day

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My principal goal is to raise awareness about epilepsy for the public at large to combat ignorance, in the hope that this will lead to a better understanding and quality of life for people living with epilepsy.

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International
Epilepsy Day

**What can we do to
reduce stigma?**

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I began a course and speaking engagement to local schools and businesses to educate them about epilepsy. The activities grew to doing presentations on local TV stations again to educate the local public about epilepsy. These activities continue every year.

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I am truly grateful that “Zern” has given me back my independence and restored my level of normalcy and confidence in my life – each and every day over the years.

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[Learn how Ed and Zern became a team to raise awareness about assistance dogs.](#)

