

An Interview With Betty Ruth Tanzey by Laurence Spector

About Betty

Betty Ruth Tanzey is a former United States Naval officer who was stationed at Treasure Island Naval Base off the coast of San Francisco. She specialized in encrypted communications encoding and decoding secret messages for the United States Military. After retiring from the Navy, Betty worked as a court reporter in California and now resides in San Francisco.

Her cause: empowering CARF to underwrite the research projects necessary to find a cure for cicatricial alopecia

Betty learned about CARF on the Internet; however, she did not realize that her diagnosis of lichen planopilaris was a form of cicatricial alopecia until she checked with her physician. She thinks there are other patients who have this condition but don't know it because they have not seen a specialist who can make a proper diagnosis. She realized her hair was disappearing slowly and knew something had to be done. At this year's CARF patient conference in Minneapolis, Betty enjoyed meeting other patients with cicatricial alopecia but was frustrated at the lack of answers to many questions surrounding the mystery of the disease. Betty believes CARF is challenged with promoting awareness among doctors, patients, and research scientists. When asked if there was anything good about having cicatricial alopecia, Betty commented that, "I suppose if you have to be cursed with something, this is not as bad as many other things. And if patients unite, together we can find a cure by supporting CARF."

Why she gives to CARF

"I want to help fund a cure. CARF is a great candidate for my charitable contributions because I know the money will be used for research. This is one of the main goals of CARF. I can only say to others that investing in CARF is in their own best interest. If anyone is going to find an answer, it's going to involve patients working together. This year, after attending CARF's patient conference to learn more about the disease, I left feeling determined to help find better treatments as well as a cure."