



Air Force veteran finds renewed quality of life with hearing aids

Forty-three year old Air Force veteran David Sokolich lost his hearing while serving overseas in the military. David also discovered that he had developed tinnitus, or ringing in the ears, making it difficult to hear normal sounds around him and to carry on every day conversations. David tried—and was disappointed—with three different types of hearing aids, but finally found the solution he needed with Siemens Pure[®] 700 hearing aids.

Noise-Induced Hearing Loss

While serving in the Air Force, David Sokolich was stationed overseas, where he was exposed daily to loud noises. David was an engineer who sat at a desk, but jet engine tests were conducted right outside his window.

“It was so loud that if you and I were standing in front of each other, we wouldn’t be able to hear each other talking,” David recalled.

David was exposed to that level of noise for two years, but he said that he did not immediately know he had a hearing loss.

He first noticed that he had trouble hearing in his late 30s, at which time he received his first hearing aids through the Veterans Administration as part of his Air Force benefits. David tried two other brands of hearing aids, but decided to keep using his old ones because he thought that the hearing loss was manageable.

Finding a Solution in Siemens

Just two years ago the hearing loss became unmanageable. David had been living with low and high frequency hearing loss combined with chronic tinnitus. He had trouble hearing the phone and the television, and had difficulty carrying on a normal conversation. He recalls that it was as if someone had “turned up the volume on his tinnitus.”

David and his wife conducted research on their own to look for more options beyond the hearing aids he had already tried. David found Siemens Pure 700 hearing aids and decided that he wanted to try them out. David then consulted his local audiologist, Dr. Jean Toth, to learn more about the hearing aids and how they could help his hearing. After he spoke with Dr. Toth, David decided to start wearing them.

“With the Siemens hearing aids, I noticed the difference on the first day. With the old ones, the car door closing sounded like a bomb going off. And the ‘ding-ding’ in the car was excruciating,” David said.

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Improved Quality of Life

David says that his quality of life has improved since he started wearing his Siemens Pure 700 hearing aids. His understanding of speech has improved, especially when he's in a crowd. David appreciates the directional microphone that enables him to clearly hear in those crowded situations.

He has also noticed a big improvement in conversations with his wife and son. He can now talk to and hear his nine-year old son without a problem and because of that, he enjoys more frequent conversations with him.

David has enhanced his Siemens Pure 700 hearing aids with the Siemens Tek[®] wireless enhancement system that transmits signals from audio equipment directly into his ears using *Bluetooth*[®] technology. David really enjoys listening to his MP3 player with Tek because he can lie down on his side without using ear buds. He is also pleased with Tek's great sound quality. Before using Tek, David had problems hearing the lower frequency when using his MP3 player, but that issue has been fixed with his Pure 700 hearing aids combined with Tek.

David has also noticed a big difference when watching television.

"The TV thing was getting to be a big issue," David recalled. "Before I got Siemens hearing aids, I couldn't watch TV because I needed the volume up and it was too loud for my family."

The Tek also helps to ease David's tinnitus. If the tinnitus is bothering him at a certain time, he can listen to music or a podcast using the Tek to take attention away from the tinnitus.

"There is no cure for tinnitus, but Siemens hearing aids have helped because it has given me options," David said.

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