



Stand with Emmitt 2026 Face of Lupus

MEET EMMITT HENDERSON III, A LUPUS PATIENT AND OUR 2026 FACE OF LUPUS.

Each year we choose a lupus patient to honor at our Purple Ribbon Awards Gala. This year to honor our merger with Lupus SoCal to become the California Lupus Foundation, we are excited to introduce you to Emmitt, a lupus warrior from San Diego, who continues to fight his lupus while still advocating and supporting lupus patients.

Emmitt was diagnosed with Systemic Lupus and Lupus Nephritis in 1995 but had symptoms going back to 1980. Through the years, he has endured major complications from heart, liver, kidney and lung failures, avascular necrosis that led to a shoulder and knee replacement. Emmitt's lupus journey has shaped every part of his life, from his kidneys and joints to his brain and heart. He has endured multiple joint replacements, participated in a clinical trial, and received a life-saving kidney transplant from his brother Manny. Now facing his second kidney failure, Emmitt undergoes dialysis six times a week.

“Through working with Lupus SoCal I realized I didn't know I had a story, till I told my story!”

One of the ways Emmitt has chosen to make a difference is by founding Male Lupus Warriors Corp, a nonprofit dedicated to creating space for men with chronic illness to be seen, heard, and supported. The organization's mission goes beyond awareness, focusing deeply on men's mental health and breaking the silence around emotional pain and isolation.

Emmitt's work has earned national recognition, with awards and invitations to speak on platforms across the country, from medical panels and community events, to speaking on Capitol Hill.





Partnering with the Lupus Foundation of Southern California helped amplify his message, allowing him to reach wider audiences and elevate voices often overlooked.

His advocacy has even reached international heights, raising awareness in Africa and hiking Mt. Kilimanjaro to inspire others. Emmitt helps moderate the SoCal Support Group, and has been a speaker at our Lupus Health Conference to help other lupus patients with SLE. As an author and storyteller, Emmitt uses his lived experience to build bridges and spark change. Whether planning events, mentoring fellow warriors, or sharing his truth, he leads with unwavering purpose.

HIS MANTRA IS MORE THAN WORDS—IT'S A MISSION: HE TURNS PAIN INTO POWER

The California Lupus Foundation is proud to stand by patients like Emmitt.

We are grateful for his willingness to help other lupus patients at our Health Conferences, at Support Groups and by sharing his story on Capitol Hill he continues to inspire us.

Your donation today, directly supports our programs like the Lupus Health Conferences and our Support Groups. Donations allow us to send 2 lupus patients to Washington DC each year to raise lupus awareness and advocate for more funding for lupus research.

But we need your help to continue to offer our FREE support and education programs. Can we depend on you to donate and help us continue our mission?

**SCAN HERE TO DONATE
TODAY**



PS: Please respond before December 31st. Your gift of \$50, \$100 or \$250 will help provide information and support to all lupus patients. Thank you!!