



**Matt Boison**  
**2014 Walk to Cure Arthritis**  
**Event Honoree**  
**Indianapolis, IN**

Imagine free falling from a helicopter and not having your parachute open. It sounds like something from a Hollywood script, but it's the real-life story of a decorated Army veteran and this year's Walk to Cure Arthritis adult honoree, Matt Boison.

Matt joined the Army after graduating from Ball State University. He spent much of his military career as an officer in special operations, and a few special mission units conducting counter-terrorist operations within Europe and Africa. One of those missions was against a well-known drug cartel. Stationed in Fort Bragg at the time, Matt fell 800 feet when his parachute failed to open during a practice. The impact broke several bones.

"When I slammed into the ground I could hear all my bones breaking," Matt recalls. "At the time I thought this was the end of my life, but as it turned out I did all the right things to avoid death."

Matt later retired from the Army as a major with 32 awards and decorations. But he still has battle scars, in the way of osteoarthritis, to remind him of his service to our country.

"I'm really a very lucky guy to have survived that near fatal event," Matt explains. "But now I suffer from the chronic pain of arthritis in most of my joints and spine. Most days the pain is tolerable, but some days the pain is intense and my mobility is extremely limited."

Matt now works for the Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), a FORTUNE 500® scientific engineering and technology applications company. He has been married for 35 years and has an adult daughter.

"On the days when I experience intense pain I'll take pain medication and do my best to keep moving forward," Matt says. "The motto of my Special Operations unit, 'NEVER QUIT,' helps to keep me going."

The Arthritis Foundation is proud and thankful for Matt's service to our country, and we are honored to have him as our 2014 Walk to Cure Arthritis honoree.

**About the Arthritis Foundation**

The Arthritis Foundation ([www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org)) is committed to raising awareness and reducing the unacceptable impact of arthritis, which strikes one in every five adults and 300,000 children, and is the nation's leading cause of disability. To conquer this painful, debilitating disease, we support education, research, advocacy and other vital programs and services.