To the following 9 national level Parkinson's and Multiple Sclerosis Association's who are receiving this e-mail;

"What is being accomplished to associate Parkinson's Disease and Multiple Sclerosis to Gulf War Syndrome".

The VA refers to Gulf War Syndrome as Gulf War Veterans' Medically Unexplained Illnesses.

"Gulf War Veterans’ Medically Unexplained Illnesses" Which effects all those who have served in the Persian Gulf from 1990 till 2016.

Major military operations are; Operation's Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Provide Comfort 1 and 2, Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, and certain areas of support for Operation Enduring Freedom.

Here are excerpts from the VA web site on Gulf War Veterans’ Medically Unexplained Illnesses.

http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/medically-unexplained-illness.asp#ALS

"Prominent condition affecting Gulf War Veterans is a cluster of medically unexplained chronic symptoms that can include fatigue, headaches, joint pain, indigestion, insomnia, dizziness, respiratory disorders, and memory problems."

"VA refers to these illnesses as "chronic multi symptom illness" and "undiagnosed illnesses." We prefer not to use the term “Gulf War Syndrome” when referring to medically unexplained symptoms reported by Gulf War Veterans. Why? Because symptoms vary widely".

"VA presumes certain chronic, unexplained symptoms existing for 6 months or more are related to Gulf War service without regard to cause. These "presumptive" illnesses must have appeared during active duty in the Southwest Asia theater of military operations or by December 31, 2016",

"For VA benefit purposes, Gulf War service is active military duty in any of the following areas in the Southwest Asia theater of military operations at any time during the first Gulf War starting August 2, 1990 through the Iraq War. This includes Veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003-2010) and Operation New Dawn (2010-2011)".

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis-Lou Gherig's Disease is Veterans Affairs recognized and connected to Gulf War Veterans' Medically Unexplained Illnesses.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis-Lou Gherig's Disease already listed under diseases associated with Gulf War Syndrome.

http://www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=666
http://www.research.va.gov/news/research_highlights/als-092603.cfm#UhgRA1o5aQ
http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/medically-unexplained-illness.asp#ALS

Parkinson Disease website's associating Gulf War Syndrome as a cause of Parkinson's Disease but not Veteran Affairs recognized.

http://www.medpagetoday.com/PublicHealthPolicy/MilitaryMedicine/8671
Multiple Sclerosis website's associating Gulf War Syndrome as a cause of MS but not Veteran Affairs recognized.

http://www.va.gov/gulfwaradvisorycommittee/docs/MS_Haselkorn.pdf
http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2013/06/14/gulf-war-illness-study/2417677/
http://www.lef.org/protocols/health_concerns/gulf_war Syndrome_01.htm
http://www.georgetown.edu/news/physical-evidence-of-gulf-war-illness.html

Shawn W. Wilbur
Blinded Veterans Association
Nebraska Regional Group

Service Officer
VFW Post 2280
Bellevue Nebraska