

July 19<sup>th</sup> , 2011

To all the members of Laf-A-Lot Rod and Gun Club:

This open letter is to thank the executive committee and members that voted for me to be a privileged member. I am very proud and honored that the club has done that for me.

I will take this opportunity to tell you more about my illness. The illness is called Shy-Drager Syndrome or Multiple System Atrophy. Multiple system atrophy (MSA) is a rare condition that causes symptoms similar to Parkinson's Disease. However, patients with MSA have more widespread damage to the part of the nervous system that controls important functions such as heart rate, blood pressure, and sweating. There is no known cure and the disease does not go into remission. However, I have been accepted into a clinical trial at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. The trial is to test a certain drug to determine whether it is effective in slowing or reversing the progression of MSA.

Again, I want to thank you all for voting me in as a privileged member.

Dicky Tracer