



Ralph Braun

Ralph was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy as a young boy in 1947. Doctors told his parents he'd never be independent, but both Ralph and his parents were determined to prove them wrong. In the next few years, Ralph lost his ability to walk. At a young age, he set his mind to engineering the first battery-powered scooter. From there he designed the world's first wheelchair lift, installed in an old postal Jeep and complete with hand controls. Necessity is the mother of invention, and Ralph's physical limitations only served to fuel his determination to live independently and prove to society that people with physical disabilities can participate fully and actively in life.