Willow Award

EXCELLENCE IN END-OF-LIFE CARE

11/3/2025

Dear Willow Award Committee,

It is with deep gratitude and admiration that I nominate David Cariker for the Willow Award for Excellence in End-of-Life Care. I am writing on behalf of my family, who had the privilege of experiencing David's exceptional care for my Mother Geraldine Carter during his care from June 2025 until her death on October 15, 2025.

David served as a lead hospice nurse and demonstrated a level of compassion, skill, and dedication that went far beyond their professional duties. His presence brought immense comfort, peace, and dignity to our family during a profoundly difficult time.

For example, the last month before my Mom's death, David would call me during each health check visit and talk to both me and Mom about her health and recommended steps to make her more comfortable. David's calm demeanor and caring voice was a daily comfort to me and allowed me to update immediate family with real time health status.

My Mom expressed numerous times the gratitude of having a care provider like David to help her in the end of life process. My Mom looked forward to his home visits and felt safe talking about difficult topics while David held her hands. That personal connection with David was a huge relief.

Mom did not want to go into the hospital and David agreed to allow my Mom to spend her last few days at home with the care of hospice and family. That decision really made my Mom very happy and aligned with her final wishes.

In Mom's last 24 hours David explained to the gathered family members and was absolutely correct of how the end of life process would go and what to expect. David was spot on with the last lucid moment up to and including her final breathing pattern just before passing.

David was not present when Mom passed, but called me personally to express sympathy and lifted my spirits by telling me about great memories he held about interactions with my Mom. Although Mom was 25 years his senior, they connected like lifetime friends. Our family is grateful that David came into my Mom's life.

In summary, David's every action embodies the very essence of the Willow Award. David and supporting staff demonstrated a quiet strength and unwavering support to my Mom and family. David's exceptional dedication and compassionate heart made a lasting, positive difference in our family's end-of-life journey. For these reasons, I wholeheartedly recommend David Cariker for this significant & deserving honor.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

The Family of Geraldine Carter

Donna Jenik