9/23/2026

Dear Willow Awards Selection Committee,

I am honored to nominate Luke Dahl as a recipient of the Willow Award for the extraordinary care and compassion he showed my mother, Jean Dowd, and our family during one of the most difficult experiences of my life.

On Saturday, May 16, my mother, Jean, collapsed at home in Perry, Iowa. I knew immediately that something was not right, and we called 911. At the time, our family was already carrying an unimaginable amount of grief with my brother-in-law in hospice and we faced the heartbreaking decision to put our beloved dog down that same day.

In the middle of all that chaos, fear, and uncertainty, Luke was the calm in the storm.

I vividly remember him getting down and meeting me at eye level. While everything around me seemed to be swirling, he calmly explained what was happening and helped me understand what was going on. When my mother became unresponsive, Luke remained composed and focused. He gathered the necessary information, communicated the plan clearly, and made sure I understood what was happening every step of the way.

He also allowed me to ride with my mother in the ambulance which is something I cannot repay. Throughout the trip, Luke and his team kept me informed and reassured me. Their

professionalism and care gave me something I desperately needed in that moment: a sense that my mother was in capable hands.

My mother had suffered a heart attack and, ultimately, she did not survive. But because of Luke and his team, she received the care she needed and was able to make it to the hospital. I will always be grateful for the time they did give her as I truly feel without that team she would not have made it to the hospital.

What stands out to me most about Luke, however, is what happened after we arrived at the emergency room. Amid all the activity and commotion, Luke was the one who stayed. I was alone and scared, and he did not simply walk away once his immediate responsibilities were finished.

He was honest and compassionate when explaining my mother's prognosis. He made sure I understood the seriousness of the situation without ever making me feel abandoned. He found me a chair and asked if there was anything else I needed before he left.

Those may seem like small gestures, but to someone experiencing the worst day of her life, they meant everything.

Luke demonstrated not only exceptional medical care, but something equally important: humanity. He saw a frightened daughter behind the emergency and took the time to care for her, too. He remained calm when everyone else was overwhelmed, communicated when I needed answers, and offered compassion when I needed someone simply to stay.

I will never forget Luke or the way he cared for my mother and for me that day. His actions gave our family comfort during an experience we will carry with us forever.

For his professionalism, compassion, calm presence, and extraordinary care, I am honored to nominate Luke for the Willow Award. He truly was the calm in the storm when our family needed it most, and I believe his actions exemplify the very best of what this award represents.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

Christina Sowers

Daughter of the late Jean Dowd