Willow Award

EXCELLENCE IN END-OF-LIFE CARE

Dear Willow Award,

I would like to nominate my dad's Hospice Nurse for this very special Willow Award. She was truly an angel sent from God to our family. I had only met her personally one time and that was the day before my dad passed away.

She came into our home and explained to my family and I what was about to take place with my dad's health. She spoke softly and kindly as best that the situation would allow. She also spoke honestly so that we could process it all and wouldn't be surprised by what was about to happen.

She bathed my dad, dressed him, made his bed and did the medical things that needed to be done for him at that time. She asked me if I, his daughter, would like to be a part of the process. At first, I said no, I will let you do that, but thank you for asking me. But, very quickly I said "yes, I would like to help you in taking care of my dad."

She said these very thoughtful words to me, "Just be his daughter right now in this very moment, not his care giver, because I will be that for him." In those very precious moments with my dad, I talked to him, I held him in my arms, and I was his daughter, getting to enjoy just being there for my dad, the sway that I needed and wanted to be.

His nurse did the kindest thing for me that I will forever cherish in my heart. She just let me be "Daddy's Girl" one last time.

She was so kind, gentle and treated my dad with so much respect. She also asked if she could sing to my dad. She has the most beautiful voice and as she sang to him, she lovingly stroked his face. Seeing this truly touched all of our hearts deeply.

My dad sadly passed away the next day. He was at home and surrounded by all of his family who loved him so very much.

His nurse heard of him passing and she called me with words of sympathy. She asked if there is anything that she could do for us in our time of grief and need. I asked her if she could sing that same song that she sang to my dad at his funeral and without hesitation, she said yes. She blessed us again with her beautiful voice.

She went above and beyond her duties of being a Hospice Nurse. Anyone who meets her will know that she has a very special calling on her life. She showed such compassion and love not only to my dad but to our family as well.

I find comfort in knowing that my dad is now in Heaven. There has to be a very special place in Heaven for the people who dedicate their lives that do hospice care because they touch the lives of so many people in ways that goes deeper than words can even express.

My words alone cannot even thank her enough for the compassion she showed towards my dad and to our family, but I pray that she feels our deep love for her.

Her name is Mendy Barnes and she took such wonderful care of my precious dad, James Eversole.

Thank-you Mend for being such a wonderful Nurse who went above and beyond your job. You have blessed our family so much and we appreciate everything that you did for our dad. God's blessings On Your Life!

The Family of James Eversole

Kim Lee (Daughter)

Beth Eversole (Wife)

Jim Eversole (Son)

John Eversole (Son)