Willow Award

EXCELLENCE IN END-OF-LIFE CARE

5/28/2025

I am writing to nominate Latesha McKenney, CNA ("T") for the Willow Award in recognition of the extraordinary end-of-life care she provided to my grandmother, Darby Blair.

Throughout my grandmother's stay at Lakewood Rehabilitation and Nursing Home, T brought not only exceptional skill and attentiveness, but also genuine warmth and compassion. She became a familiar and comforting presence, treating my grandmother with extra care and dignity, while also sharing many moments of laughter with both of us. Those moments of joy helped my grandmother feel more like herself—they made her feel seen, special, and, in a way, normal again despite everything. I consistently found myself hoping that T would be working when I would go visit my grandmother.

I had many questions along the way, and T never hesitated to help. If she didn't know the answer, she would find someone who did and make sure they came to speak with me directly. That level of attentiveness, clarity, and advocacy brought so much comfort during such an uncertain time.

Perhaps most unforgettable was her presence in the moment of my grandmother's passing. When I arrived, she was there to greet me with a big hug and words of comfort. That quiet act of kindness meant more to me than she will ever know. She supported my grandmother (and myself) not just as a caregiver, but as a deeply empathetic human being.

For all these reasons and more, I nominate Latesha McKenney, CNA for the Willow Award. Her care went far beyond duty—it touched our hearts and left a lasting mark on our family.

With sincere gratitude,

Maddie Hall
501-353-8299

Granddaughter of Darby Blair