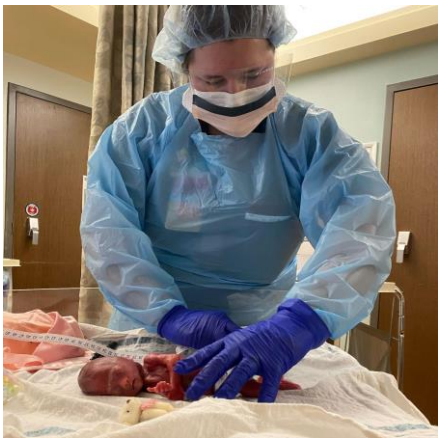
Willow Award

EXCELLENCE IN END-OF-LIFE CARE



Dear Smith Funeral Homes,

In 2021, my wife and I have two beautifully healthy babies with a third on the way. For a 21- and 22-year-old, life was happening and it was happening fast. High on life, we failed to see that this was the calm before the storm. As the weeks progressed, ultrasound after ultrasound, minuet changes began to become noticeable on the scans. My wife was then referred to high risk. This is where we met the first person of importance, Shannon Barringer. Shannon is an extremely personable, empathetic, and sympathetic individual. She provided testing, understanding, and even counseling for the situation at hand. With the help of Shannon, we made it to our next destination: UAMS.

On the 24th day of November, 2021, my wife was admitted for induction for what was now a fetal demise. Reva had swept in with words of reassurance stating “don't worry, we will get this taken care of” and gave my wife a well-rested, fresh, and strong shoulder to cry on. I believe in God, I believe everything has purpose, and I believe God is in complete control of who and when we meet certain people in our lives. Reva would prove to be the most loving, caring, involving, optimistic, selfless, attentive, and promising nurse we have ever had the privilege of receiving care from. With the future slowly approaching, we knew what was to come. That very next day, my beautiful, strong, courageous bride would deliver our sweet baby Charlotte into this world knowing she was lifeless. Reva became a light in pure darkness. She laughed with us, cried with us, and even gave us the opportunity to celebrate a birthday or grieve a death. Reva bathed her, dressed her, made matching bracelets, placed an order for a Poppy Plate, and was so adamant about singing happy birthday. And that's just what we did.

The fact that we got to do all of these things with our sweet baby girl, whose home was in heaven long before we could hold her, is something I still believe to this day was a key component in the healing process. God gave us Reva. Reva gave us healing. Reva loved on our sweet baby Charlotte with complete absence of discomfort and treated this birth as any other. My wife and I both are truly grateful and thankful for Reva more than words can describe. But as life would have it, this would not be the last time we receive above and beyond exceptional care from Reva.

Fast forward to August 10th, 2023, we now have 3 healthy babies at home and a 4th on the way. The day was an exciting one, as my wife would have her 12-week ultrasound and as a Dad I was excited, as it was a boy and the boy to girl ratio would be even! 3 to 3! On the ultrasound screen, there he was! The tie breaker. Only there was a familiar feeling looming in the air as though deja-vu was setting in. There was no heartbeat. The emotional crash from almost 2 years ago was flooding back. Our doctor scheduled a D&C for the following morning at UAMS. A couple hours after being admitted, you guessed it, Reva Martin, the floor nurse from almost two years ago, was at our door. Reva, for a second time in our lives, made herself 100 percent available for our, yet again, grieving family.

Reva helped us grow and heal through acceptance, encouraging us to make the most of nothing. Reva even gave us peace by showing continued love, care, and support throughout the entire hospital stay both times. She went to our lowest points with us as though she was made to do that very thing. One with such diligence to her job, patient advocacy, and selflessness should never go unnoticed. That is why we have nominated Reva Martin to receive the Willow Award.

Sincerely,

Skye & Dylan Billingsley.