Willow Award

EXCELLENCE IN END-OF-LIFE CARE

Dear Willow Award Committee, 8/16/2024

I would like to nominate Sarah Rogers, RN, with the John L. McClellan Veteran's Hospital. Sarah was the primary caregiver and nurse for my father when he was a patient in hospice care. My whole family grew to love Sarah in such a short time. She was so gentle and caring to Dad but she also took care of all of us. She always asked if there was anything she could do for us. She took time each day to come talk with us and learn more about our lives and our Dad. If anyone could become part of our family within a few days, it was Sarah. The day that my Dad's identical twin brother came to visit him was a hard day for me. I had to take some time away from the hospital to process it. While I was gone, Sarah asked my brother if I was ok. When I first got back, she immediately checked on me. She showed love and care for our entire family. Sarah told us that nurses often say "We save lives." She said as a hospice nurse they do it. They take care of the patient's quality of life in such an honorable way. It's really odd to miss being at the hospital in hospice but it's only because of people like Sarah that surrounded us with love in the hardest time of our life.

Angela was the lady responsible for cleaning the rooms each day. She was also a bright spot during the day for us. She would share stories of her family and we shared ours. We miss her too!

All the nurses that we had at the VA Hospice were very kind and caring. Sam was one of our first nurses and she led the way for how we expected such quality care. I can't go without mentioning Dr. Sarah Brisson and Dr. Southard as part of the Palliative Care team. Without their guidance and care we would not have been given the opportunity to honor my Dad's wishes in the most caring loving way. The VA has been very good to my family in so many ways. Please recognize them for all they do for the veterans and our loved ones.

Thank you!

Stacy Brady

Daughter of CJ Bryant, Korean War Veteran – Air Force