

8/14/2025

Dear Willow Award,

JB always said “God is first. Family is second. And if you are lucky enough to have a job, that should be third.” He was definitely “God’s Man” in all that he did. His sense of humor and his love for his family made him so loveable to many.

JB was always known as “Quiet JB”, having received his degree in engineering out of Memphis State University and masters degree in theology. His desire to learn more and do more was at the forefront of all that he did. What most didn’t know about JB is that he would often work masterfully on different creations, projects and patents over his lifetime, never ever hanging even one of those awards or certificates on the wall for anyone to know about. He was very private and very humble.

In 2024, our family began to see the signs of Alzheimer's setting in. He could walk with his cane and for the most part, he was getting around very well. This past January, he came down with double pneumonia. And from that point forward, things just were not the same. JB’s Alzheimer's appeared itself as worse, as he began falling frequently. Doctors then discovered that his heart was failing him.

I don’t think anyone in their medical career has ever met anyone as modest as my husband was. The team at Arkansas Hospice - Searcy was so very considerate of that. Everything they did for him in those weeks was to protect him, even his pride and dignity, and the consideration they showed before they made decisions for his care.

Every day that Michelle Lindsey, his CNA, came into our home, she and JB had some sort of commentary going on. Either she owed him a dollar or he owed her a dollar. It truly made JB laugh daily. Once Nurse

Keely would arrive, JB would declare that Keely gets $1.30! Then Melissa would jokingly say “1.30?! I’m here everyday!” And JB would say with a grin “Well today, you only get .97 cents!”

The time that we had together as a hospice family and a hospice team, although short, could not have been better than it was. There was never a day when a single soul who entered our home, no matter the situation they were walking into, was not smiling. They did anything they could for JB, and they also continued to check on my needs. These individuals breathed joy into our home during the hardest weeks of our lives.

But then there was the day of our 58th wedding anniversary. The days were getting long for JB, he was getting weaker. He slept a lot and conversations were becoming fewer. His favorite color was yellow and on that day, I wore a yellow for him. I pulled out our old wedding album, scooted a chair next to his bed, and began flipping through it in hopes that JB could feel that he was a part of our 58 year celebration too. There was a knock at the door. And to my surprise, it was our Arkansas Hospice team, walking in with flowers, balloons, a hot dog from Sonic (his favorite), a taco from Taco Bell (my favorite). And to my surprise, my eyes were drawn to the flowers. And wouldn’t you know it, the vase was full of YELLOW roses. I exclaimed “How did you know that was his favorite color?” And our team said “We didn’t.”

58 years is a very long time to be with someone. And knowing that our days together were coming to an end. This act of love will mean more to me than they will ever know.

So today, our family would like to nominate our end-of-life care team for the exceptional care of our patriarch, JB Threat, for the prestigious Willow Award.

- Michelle Lindsey, CNA
- April Ash, Social Work
- Nick Shimmer, Chaplain
- Keelie Sullivan, RN
- Jacob Medler, RN

Sincerely,

The family of JB Threat