Willow Award

EXCELLENCE IN END-OF-LIFE CARE

January 16, 2023

To: Willow Award / Smith Family Funeral Homes

RE: Nomination Letter for Willow Award

My precious wife of sixty-two years, Billie June Davenport, was recently diagnosed with Dementia and Primary Progressive Aphasia. I cared for her personally in our home, until August of 2022, when Hospice Home Care began making weekly visits and checkups. As June's health declined, the hospice visits became more frequent. On Friday, September 2, 2022, Audrey Booker came to our house to help bathe June and wash her hair. She was so gentle, kind, and professional that both June and I loved her. On September 9, when Audrey finished bathing my wife, June indicated with her finger to come close to where she was sitting. (I told Audrey, "She wants you to sit beside her.") Audrey sat beside her, and June reached over and pulled Audrey's face toward her and kissed Audrey's cheek. June wanted to be sure Audrey knew how much she appreciated her compassionate care, and with the loss of being able to talk, her kiss said it all.

Audrey has a loving way to handle the most fragile of patients, which June became in the following weeks. Audrey called me as soon as she heard of June's passing and would have attended the memorial service had she not been sent to another patient. She did make it to our church lobby 45 minutes after the service started but didn't want to (in her words) show disrespect by entering late. Audrey came by our home two days later to check on me and get another hug. She calls to check on me throughout the week and has been a source of strength and encouragement during this difficult time.

I hope you will give careful consideration to Audrey for your company's Willow-Award. I know my wife and I were not Audrey's only patient, but she made us feel as though we were, and I am forever grateful.

Sincerely,
Richard E. Davenport
Family of Billie June Davenport
1942-2022