Willow Award

EXCELLENCE IN END-OF-LIFE CARE

2/22/24

To: Smith Family Funeral Home/Willow Award

From: Riner Family

Ms. Elizabeth “Liz” Janes came into our lives on 1/23/24 as a caregiver for our mother Tonya Riner after she was placed in hospice. Immediately upon introduction, she showed her compassion and generosity to our mother, and Mom replied in kind. Liz became a member of the family, going above and beyond her duties to treat our mother with respect and dignity, and it gave her so much joy in her final days.

After every shift, she would write detailed notes to our father regarding how our mom’s day had gone and would text him updates throughout the day. She would cook special meals for Mom which always made our mother smile. Liz even made a giant bouquet of Valentine’s Day gifts for both Mom and Dad, and Mom adored the shirt she was given and wore it frequently. Our mother was the first assignment Liz had as a caregiver, and we were blessed to have such a kindhearted and empathetic person to spend Mom’s final weeks.

Words cannot adequately describe how much we appreciate Liz for her role in helping our mother this last month. While she was with us just a short amount of time, the impact of her compassion will resonate with us for the rest of our lives. She gave Mom companionship, joy, and love during her last days on Earth and we can never repay her for that gift. Liz was a rainbow in the clouds of Mom’s hospice days. We want to do what we can to recognize her heart by nominating her for this award.

“Caregiving has no second agendas or hidden motives. The care is given from love for the joy of giving without expectation, no strings attached.”

- Gary Zukav

Sincerely,

The Family of Tonya Marie Riner (1961-2024)