

November 30, 2015

To the amazing staff of Westledge 2nd floor,

17 months ago my father, Otto Meier, arrived at Westledge Rehabilitation. He was transferred from another facility that was no longer willing to care for him and Westledge was able to accommodate him. Westledge was under construction and in need of remodeling but here we were until he could be transferred closer to my home. In a very short period of time we both knew we would never want to leave this group of extraordinary people.

We were welcomed with kindness and a professional staff that went out of their way to provide services and care to my Dad. His cognitive capabilities were always intact but his physical abilities deteriorated quickly. He made quick friends in occupational therapy, who challenged him both physically and mentally but who were honest and caring. The entire staff of both physical and occupational worked so diligently and with such compassion with a man who desperately wanted to maintain his independence and dignity.

His physical care was challenging from the beginning and only increased in complexity in the months to follow. The nurses and CNA's who cared for him are some of the most exceptional people I have ever met. They cared for my father with such expertise and compassion and they provided to him a quality of life in his last months. It is impossible for me to thank you all enough. My father and I would talk often about how special each of you were and all your acts of kindness. He had nicknames for almost all of you and hardly ever used your real names but I learned who you all were. There was always someone to take the time to talk about news and politics, listen to his stories from the past, give a smile and big hello, a tap on the nose, a hug, special care for his aching limbs and body, attempt to find something new to make him more independent or comfortable, make sure he ate and drank, make sure he always looked his best... I could go on and on. What is also incredible was that even staff that did not directly care for my dad went out of their way to show him kindness. Everyone from every department in Westledge went out of their way to accommodate his needs or to just give him a warm smile and big hello.

I am so afraid if I name staff specifically that I will omit someone who touched us in a special way. I sincerely thank everyone who was kind and respectful to my father.

I want those of you who cared for him the most, who were his special group, the ones who watched over him day after day, those who knew him the best, to know how much you meant to both of us. He told me and I witnessed how each of you cared for him, how you listened to him, how even when it was impossible to make him comfortable, you did. He knew he drove you crazy sometimes and asked of you things you could not do. You made him feel cared for and loved. He felt blessed and thankful to know you, and so

grateful. Everyone worked so hard. I was always at peace leaving him in your hands. You were always there for me, always listened and advised and I learned so much from you. I am eternally grateful that my father last time on this earth was spent with you.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday and all the happiness you so deserve.

With much gratitude and affection,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan".

Susan Corigliano