



FOR: Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Illinois
www.hospiceanswers.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOSPICE PATIENT PROFILE: *VETERAN TOM TAPS PALLIATIVE SUPPORT*

Tom moved from his home in Cleveland to an assisted living community in Crystal Lake, Illinois to be near his eldest son. His ailments include an intermittent loss of balance, a formerly broken shin, diabetes, and dialysis three times a week.

He describes his living situation as “An ideal place for care. It’s not a hospital. It’s not an old people’s home. It’s a fun place, with caring people.” He learned of palliative care when a representative from Hospice and Palliative Care of Northeastern Illinois came to talk with the veterans group he helped form.

Tom served in the US Army, stationed in Germany. He then worked as a regional manager for Harley Davidson. His leadership skills come in handy in organizing a social group for military veterans at his assisted living home.

He’s also a veteran of traditional medical care. He shares his insights on differences he’s discovered while receiving palliative care in the past year and a half. “My diverse health issues required battalions of specialized MDs, nurses, interns and assistants, in many states and Canada,” he explains, “so it was easy to distinguish some unusual characteristics in my ‘palliative’ care nurse.”

He thoughtfully describes his observations:

- *"My palliative nurse is an inquisitive, investigative, multi-medical disciplined health professional."* His nurse discovered that a mix of medications prescribed by different doctors was causing him unnecessary problems.

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PATIENT PROFILES - TOM/Add One

- *"She is experienced in the uncommon art of perceiving both the spoken and unspoken word from a patient when describing symptoms, fears or emotional issues."* His hidden pain over the death of his wife was brought to the surface and soothed in conversations with a caring nurse willing to listen.
- *"She is employed, supported and empowered by an organizational hierarchy that operates equally on behalf of patient's rights as well as medical institution rights."* Tom received help in processing paperwork and getting through the healthcare system while remaining an individual in the eyes of his care provider.

Tom's move to be closer to family has also expanded his thoughts on what family is. "I have a new family here," he says.

About Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Illinois

Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Illinois is a not-for-profit organization serving families throughout McHenry, Lake, Northwest Cook, Kane, Boone and DuPage counties. Founded in 1982, the agency provides comprehensive end-of-life care to over 1,400 patient families each year. The organization's palliative care program offers services for those who struggle with serious illnesses as well as pain and symptom management. Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Illinois is Medicare certified and accredited by the Joint Commission. For further information, please visit www.HospiceAnswers.org and www.PepperFamilyHospiceHome.org.

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