

RUTH "SAM" MILLER
9900 Piscataway Road
Clinton, MD 20735

May 12, 2015

Sharon M. Mattia
Director, Veterans Home Program
29449 Charlotte Hall Road
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622

Dear Ms. Mattia,

This note is long overdue. but I wanted to take the time to say thank you and tell you the staff in 1C is wonderful. My dad, Casimir "Slug" Witucki entered Charlotte Hall as a resident on July 13, 2012. After four days he was moved into 1C. During this time, my mom was diagnosed with chronic myelogenous Leukemia and was in Johns Hopkins. Bill, one of the nurses at the time was very patient and comforting to me as I would call every day to see how my dad was adjusting and he and the other staff were so reassuring that it allowed me to concentrate on getting my mom better.

Eventually I was able to come and visit Daddy and bring my mom to see him for the first time. The staff was so wonderful, not only to Daddy, but to my mom as well. Making sure she had a chair and was comfortable, and making sure she was ok too.

Over the 2 ½ years of visiting Charlotte Hall, my kids and I got to know several of the staff and residents. My children made it a point to learn a new resident at every visit and made sure they saw each one, spoke to them and helped to brighten their day just a little.

During Daddy's stay, I can truly say he was always clean, well shaven, his hair was kept short like we liked it, nails taken care of and well fed. We always felt as though your staff looked after Daddy like he was their family member.

When anyone called my mom or myself, whether to notify us of an appointment or if Daddy wasn't feeling well, the call was always respectful, and with complete information. Rachel, Susanne, Bola (sp?), Alice or Cindy never rushed us, always answered all questions and were always available to us. Sometimes, they had to make two calls. If Mom didn't quite understand, Staff would call me upon her request and explain one more time to me what was happening. Sometimes, they took it upon themselves to call me, just to make sure I was aware of the latest information.

Paul (or Paulie as we call him), Tamika, Janet, Amy, Lucy and I know I'm missing others, were e amazing; always smiling, always caring; always connecting with us the family and with

Daddy. When Daddy came back from the hospital and hospice had been called in, each one hugged me, the kids or mom and was truly concerned for us. Each one expressed how much they loved my Dad and what a great person he was. My daughter, only 16 would come by after school and visit him and staff kept an eye on her during this emotional and sad time. It was comforting to me to know she really wasn't alone during her visits.

On his last day, Cindy, no longer working in 1C, heard we were there visiting with Slug, and she made it a point to come and see us all and give her condolences. Jessica, Cindy's replacement, came in and introduced herself to us, sat and talked with us and reiterated that if we needed anything to please let her know.

In the meantime, Rachel had a cart brought to the room for us. As you know these can be long days. Mike from the cafeteria, personally brought it to us, gave us his condolences and made sure we knew he was there if we needed anything. These gestures, no matter how small, meant the world to the family and me.

Sunday evening, April 19th around 7:15/7:20 I received the call that daddy had passed. It's kind of a blur, and I cannot even remember who called me. But want to say whoever it was, she handled the call with such respect, dignity and care, and I want to say thank you to her.

I cannot even begin to tell the stories that we share with the staff. It would be a book. I just want and hope the leadership at Charlotte Hall, understand what a special staff they have in 1C. I don't believe staff is really appreciated enough by the families of the residents, but we recognize and understand their daily routines. Even without the acknowledgements or thanks, they continue to take wonderful care of these men in very difficult circumstances. They are and always will be a part of my family and hold a special place in my heart.

Thank you will never be enough to express our gratitude to all in 1C for taking such loving and excellent care of Slug – wonderful husband, great father, the best grandfather and a resident of Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home.

Thank you and your staff for all you do every day to ensure a good quality of life for our veterans.

Very Truly,

Ruth "Sam" Miller
Daughter of Casimir "Slug" Witucki

