

Dear Senator Ron Johnson,

Thank you for your work to expose what families like mine experienced with hospital COVID protocols. My name is Gina Brooks, and I am writing about my husband, Don Brooks, who died on October 1, 2021. I believe his case belongs on the public record.

Don had just turned 53. We had celebrated 29 years of marriage and built a life centered on faith and family. We raised four children and were blessed with four grandchildren. Don worked full-time for 26 years as a union heavy equipment operator and was the sole provider while I managed our home. He could fix anything, built whatever we needed, and helped anyone who asked. He was steady, hardworking, and rarely sick.

On September 1, 2021, Don came down with flu-like symptoms—highly unusual for him. He even called in sick to work, which almost never happened. After nearly a week, both of us tested positive for COVID at CVS. We quarantined at home, and Don's breathing worsened. His doctor prescribed prednisone and an inhaler. Our youngest daughter, then 20, helped care for us.

As Don declined, our daughter took him to the local ER twice. Each time he was tested and sent home. By September 13, when it was clear he needed more help, I drove him to St. Anthony's/Mercy South, a larger hospital, hoping he could get antibiotics. He walked in under his own power, and they admitted him.

According to his hospital records, he was given Remdesivir immediately. I was not allowed to be with him, so I relied on calls and texts. Communication was inconsistent: a doctor told me he was on antibiotics; a nurse later said he was not. He was placed on high-flow oxygen; I was told he received the full protocol of medications. He continued to have a fever, and I was told cultures were pending. Then I was informed he needed to be paralyzed and placed on a ventilator "for three days" to let his body rest, after which they would wean him off.

He never came off the ventilator. I was not permitted to see him until he was dying. He passed away on October 1, 2021. Only I was allowed in the room.

After his death, I reviewed his records. They show multiple protocol drugs, prolonged restraints, no noted nutrition, high-flow oxygen injury to his lungs, and sepsis documented throughout his hospitalization—something I was never told at the time. His unvaccinated status was repeatedly noted. I believe this contributed to poor and biased treatment.

Our family has been devastated. The trauma has affected our children and grandchildren; several of us struggle with PTSD symptoms. We have received no help or acknowledgment from the government for what happened. We are left with grief, unanswered questions, and a profound sense of injustice.

My husband was a devoted father, a loving spouse, a provider, and a loyal son—everyone's "Buddy." He entered an American hospital and never came home. How did this happen, and

why? Families deserve transparency, accountability, and the truth about what these protocols did to patients like Don.

Please add Don's story to the official record. I am asking for a thorough review of hospital COVID protocols, clearer standards for informed consent and family access, and accountability where care fell below basic ethical and medical duties.

Sincerely,

Gina Brooks Wife of Don Brooks