

My husband, Mark, began to have his typical asthma/ change of season allergies. On 11/17/2020, Mark found out on that he had been exposed to COVID. He contacted his PCP the next day and asked for a COVID test. He was not able to get in for a test until 11/20/2020. His test came back positive on Sunday 11/22/2020. This delayed any treatments, i.e. Ivermectin, HCQ, steroids for a week.

Mark's PCP told him to take Tylenol, rest and drink liquids. His PCP also prescribed steroids via a phone call. He was never examined by a doctor, and the PCP never offered a Z-pack or antibiotics. Nobody suggested that we monitor his Blood/ pulse oxygen. Mark's condition worsened and on the morning of November 25, 2020, at approximately 7:30 a.m., I found him unresponsive, face down in bed and immediately called the paramedics. When they arrived, they were able to provide oxygen which brought Mark back to a state of consciousness. At that time, the EMT advised that nothing else could be done for Mark at home, thus he was transported to Jefferson Regional Hospital.

Mark was placed in the ICU. They isolated him and put him on a C-PAP and Bi-Pap machine. The family was only able to face time with Mark on Thanksgiving and again a few days later. The only medication we were offered for Covid was Remdesivir. We never received informed consent of the dangers and potential side effects of Remdesivir nor were we offered any of the other medications that were alternately working such as Ivermectin & HCQ. Jefferson Regional Hospital only offered the approved hospital protocols.

Over the holiday weekend, Mark's breathing became more labored, and the option was given to be put on a ventilator. Mark agreed, as they said this would give his lungs a rest. The family was contacted as they were intubating him. Joy noted that Mark was afraid and was not under anesthesia at that time and he waved goodbye as he could not speak.

On Sunday December 6, 2020, Mark had a heart attack. The doctor attributed this to medication. After 11 days on the ventilator, the family was contacted by the hospital and a discussion regarding care was had. The physicians stated that Mark would be on a ventilator for the rest of his life and would need skilled care. If the family made the decision to do this, he would need to have a tracheotomy.

The family met and decided that was not what Mark would want and chose to honor his wishes per his living will. At that time, myself & my two sons were permitted to be in the ICU but did not have physical access to Mark.

As the equipment was turned off, both of my sons and I had to watch my husband struggle for every breath; while a total stranger, a nurse, remained with my Mark throughout the dying process. It was agonizing watching through a cafeteria window and not being permitted to be with my husband of 49 ½ years. Mark lasted close 6 hours before passing.

Senator Johnson, it is my hope this is the start of acknowledging what was perpetrated on the American people during the Covid era and finding a way to make adjustments for the losses we have endured.