

Thank you for taking the time to hear my husband Earl Clifford Butler IV's story. Earl was a devoted husband, father, son, friend, and a proud Texas Fighting Aggie, Class of 2021. He graduated with honors, earning his Master's Degree in Industrial Distribution—fulfilling his lifelong dream of becoming an Aggie. My name is Lisa Butler, his wife. We were married nearly eleven years and have two sons, Cameron and Ethan. Our oldest, Cameron, graduated from Texas A&M in May 2022 without his father present for one of the most important days of his life. Our youngest, Ethan, dropped out of high school and later earned his GED. The loss of my husband permanently changed our family, and I am asking for your help in securing an investigation into the policies and actions that caused or contributed to his death.

Our family contracted Covid and was under the care of our local physician. When Earl's oxygen dropped below the 94 threshold, I took him to the hospital for stronger treatment. He was admitted with hypoxia, placed in isolation, and I was not allowed to stay due to the "no visitor" policy. At first, he seemed to improve, but medications were changed, his condition worsened. He progressed from nasal cannula to BiPAP and then high-flow oxygen. Earl told me he had not been fed for several days.

A pulmonologist called requesting permission to administer Remdesivir. I asked for an update on Earl's condition, he refused. I asked for fifteen minutes to consult a physician friend, and he refused again. His exact words were, "I'll send the request to the pharmacy, and if they fill it, they fill it; if they don't, they don't." Earl's medical records show he was not a candidate for Remdesivir, yet he received five doses.

A few days later, a nurse called saying Earl signed consent to go on a ventilator "to give his lungs a rest." I asked if he wanted to speak with me, and was told no. The nurse said the intubation went smoothly and he was sedated like for surgery. His records show it took two attempts and his blood pressure was 185/114. Nurses reported blood coming from his nose without knowing the source.

Concerned, I contacted our general practitioner and asked him to review Earl's chart. He advised checking Earl's heart and kidneys. The cardiologist said Earl's heart was enlarged but "okay," and another team was monitoring his kidneys—odd, he had no kidney issues. Days later, a nurse requested permission for dialysis due to kidney failure. I agreed, wanting to prevent sepsis. They completed one partial treatment because his body could not tolerate it and his blood pressure remained high.

The next night, a nurse called saying Earl had gone into cardiac arrest. I asked them to take all measures to save him. Roughly forty-five minutes later, they confirmed he had died and asked where to send his body. I then learned the hospital did not have a morgue, only a cold room.

John 16:13 says, "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth." Senator Johnson, please help bring truth, accountability, and transparency so no other family endures what we have endured.