

Dear Senator Ron Johnson,

My name is Michelle L. Deuel of Pennsylvania. I am writing on behalf of my husband, MSgt. George V. Deuel Jr. (Ret.), whom I believe died as a result of the COVID-19 hospital protocols used during his treatment in September 2021.

My husband, George, was 73 years old. He was a second-generation Navy veteran who began his military career in the U.S. Navy Reserve in 1968. During the Vietnam War, he served aboard the USS San Pablo and the USS Annapolis. After leaving the Navy, he joined the Pennsylvania National Guard, where he retired in 2008 as a Master Sargent.

George developed symptoms on August 27 and tested positive on August 28. As a former EMT, I closely monitored his vital signs. George experienced a persistent fever, cough, and declining oxygen saturation levels.

I drove George to the hospital, where he was diagnosed with COVID-19 pneumonia. Throughout his medical records, his vaccination status was repeatedly documented as "unvaccinated." I believe this influenced the way he was treated.

On September 3, 2021, at 9:49 p.m., George received his first dose of Remdesivir. During his stay at UPMC Muncy, I observed what I believed were significant deficiencies in his care. He did not receive a sponge bath until his sixth day of hospitalization.

On September 12, 2021, his final day at UPMC Muncy, I received a call informing me that George had been found slumped over on his bedside commode. The medical records do not indicate the time he was discovered but state, "apparently found several times slumped over by nursing with oxygen off, resting comfortably now but back on airvo." When he was found, his blood glucose was not checked. His glucose level was not measured until 7:39 a.m., when it was recorded as 41.

I was then informed that George would be taken to the emergency department to be intubated, placed on a ventilator, and transferred to the intensive care unit at UPMC Williamsport. When I arrived, he was sitting upright but was unresponsive. Through the sheets, I realized that he had soiled himself and that it had apparently not been addressed for some time.

Because there was no space available in the emergency department, George remained in his hospital room until a bed became available. After he was eventually transferred to the emergency department, I waited approximately an hour without receiving any updates. When I asked about his condition, I was told that the ambulance transporting him to the second hospital had already departed. I never had the opportunity to see him after he was reportedly intubated.

His son and I waited in the ICU waiting room at the receiving hospital while he was admitted. When the nurse finally escorted me to his room, I was shocked to discover that George had not been intubated and was not on a ventilator. George told me that he had regained

consciousness and informed the medical staff that he did not want to be intubated. Although his medical records initially stated that he had been intubated, that information was later corrected.

Over the following 12 days, George endured treatments that I believe contributed to his decline. He received additional doses of Remdesivir, which I believe led to kidney failure and fluid accumulation in his lungs. He remained on high-flow oxygen, which severely dried his mouth and nasal passages. During this time, I observed that food was withheld and, eventually, that water was also withheld.

On the twentieth day of his hospitalization, continuing into the twenty-first day, "comfort care" was repeatedly and strongly recommended until my husband ultimately agreed to be euthanized. The following medications were administered repeatedly until he died on September 24, 2021, at 5:56 p.m.: a palliative infusion, lorazepam, and morphine.

Sincerely,

Michelle L. Deuel

Wife of MSgt. George V. Deuel Jr. (Ret.)