

My name is Becky Kasper, and I am submitting this statement regarding the 2-part hospitalization and death of my father, Jerome E. “Jerry” Kasper, at AMITA Resurrection Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois, in 2021 and 2022.

My father, Jerry Kasper, was 77 years old and a United States Army veteran. He was a loving father, grandfather, and family man who worked hard throughout his life and cared deeply for so many. He remained independent, active, and involved with his family and hobbies prior to his hospitalization. Jerry “Superman” Kasper was designated on an Honorary Street Sign in Chicago the Fall of 2025 to recognize his unique contributions to our community and city. In late December 2021, my father became ill with low oxygen and was admitted to AMITA Resurrection Medical Center on December 29, 2021 via ambulance from our local walk-in clinic.

After admission, our family experienced immediate restrictions on visitation and communication due to hospital isolation policies. My father was not vaccinated for COVID-19, and was belittled for that often while there. Communication with hospital staff became increasingly difficult, and our family struggled to obtain consistent information regarding his condition and treatment. The 6 days spent in ICU ensued much panic with unclear prognosis.

We further believe he was deprived of adequate food and water while under hospital care. The prolonged isolation was devastating both for my father and for our family. We were separated from him during critical moments of his hospitalization and forced to communicate remotely while trying to make urgent medical decisions.

Jan. 11, 2022 I have a 12 min. audio recording of a phone call with my father while in the ICU where he clearly and frantically states, “Everything is a task here, a chore – the people here are lazy, incompetent, they don’t do anything right – don’t know who they are, where they came from. Take me someplace else to go, anyplace but here. I’ve been in bed for 2 weeks, they won’t even let him up. Get me outta here, please – please – please! Do me a favor, bring me containers of water, they don’t give me any, wait all day, they don’t bring me any at all.” We as a family, heard his profound distress and helplessness.

As his 48-day hospitalization progressed, increased oxygen dependency, feeding tube installed by our directive on Feb. 4, 2022, clearly emaciated (he lost 35 pounds) our family was continually pressured regarding Do Not Resuscitate decisions while he remained critically ill. My brother and I forced quickly a POA of Healthcare since my mom was also hospitalized simultaneously but survived. Our family also observed that my father was physically restrained during portions of his hospitalization. Poor hygiene, hematomas on both his arms, and continual nose bleeds were among the many shocking discoveries while under their care.

Once visitation was allowed Jan.14, 2022 it was as if the chore of him as a patient was discarded. My daughter called 30 or so outside facilities to attempt his transfer to no avail. Late into the night on Feb.14, 2022 he came home although immobile and oxygen dependent (10L) for a mere 4 days and what followed was horribly unexpected and devastating. Due to unknown

excruciating pain in his sternum, my father returned to same ER & coerced into being vented per his granddaughter who was allowed with him briefly upon entry. Following intubation, his condition declined significantly and quickly within 24 hours. Only then, all family and relatives were allowed to see him in the ICU to basically say our good-byes.

After nearly two months in and out the hospital, Jerome “Jerry” Kasper passed February 20, 2022. My father’s untimely death left an enormous void in our family. He left behind his wife of 53 years, 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 2 great-grandkids, loved ones, and friends who continue to grieve his loss.