

Brief Description of Witness

Shandra Monique (Carter) Abraham, who prefers to be called Monique, is the daughter of the decedent, Frank M. Carter. At the time of his passing on April 13, 2020, she was forty-seven years old. Monique was exceptionally close to her father and was significantly involved in the matter of his health crisis which resulted in his death at Vanderbilt Medical Center. She is the wife of a Lutheran pastor and the mother of three sons. Monique has a Masters Degree in Education from Belmont University. She currently lives in Lebanon, Tennessee

Frank Carter

Frank McDowell Carter was a husband, father and grandfather. He served in the 7th Cavalry in the United States Army in Germany on the Czech border from 1955-1958. After returning to the United States, he served in the National Guard in Tullahoma, Tennessee, in the 1175th Transportation Company and in Nashville, Tennessee in the 194th Engineer Brigade. His rank when he retired was Lieutenant Colonel. Frank was described by his family doctor as being in "the best shape of any 82-year-old man he had ever seen". In early April 2020, Frank, at the age of eighty-two, and his wife, Peggy Carter, at age eighty, developed stomach problems. Frank never had breathing issues associated with "Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome," only some stomach problems and weakness. Frank and Peggy were my parents.

My father was taken to Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville, where he tested positive for COVID. I spoke with him on the phone after he arrived and he said he felt great and could eat a cheeseburger. As I was chatting with him on the phone, the hospital staff came and said they needed to put him on a ventilator. That was the last time he spoke to me and other members of my family. We felt incredibly hurt because the staff was not communicating with us very much, but we were eventually told Remdesivir was the best thing around and that people were successfully treated with it. They called Remdesivir the "bee's knees". Dad was admitted into a Vanderbilt clinical Trials Study on Remdesivir on April 7, 2020. I repeatedly asked if it was possible for my father to be given Hydroxychloroquine, but Vanderbilt told me it caused heart problems. We found out later ORCHID trials at Vanderbilt using Hydroxychloroquine were shut down early without a safety signal.

According to my dad's medical records, he was intubated/vented on April 8. On April 9, he went into renal failure. He was "proned," or placed in a face down position and was given a paralyzing agent. At our request, he was given vitamin C. We requested vitamin C for him because we had a family friend who was an infectious disease physician at Vanderbilt who strongly urged us to have my father put on vitamin C. (She has since expressed to us her own profound dismay at the way in which my father's case was handled at Vanderbilt. She also told us that her employment at Vanderbilt was in peril because she had been advising us.) The medical staff at Vanderbilt did not allow our family to speak to my father or visit him until he was very near death. He died on April 13. The day after my father died, the Tennessee Department of Health sent my mom a letter saying she was not allowed to leave her home, and if she did so, she would be subject to arrest.

We agreed to a full autopsy. We also consented to giving his brain for research. NBC Nightly News did a story on Frank Carter's COVID death, which was aired nationally.

Respectfully submitted by

Monique Abraham

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