



hospice let LeRoy be a musician

Hospice let LeRoy stay at home for as long as possible. After moving to a nursing facility, LeRoy continued to enjoy the things he loved due to the comfort and support of his hospice team.

LeRoy was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma on his face. He had surgery to remove the cancer and skin grafts to cover the area. As the cancer became more aggressive, LeRoy encountered some difficult decisions. When he discussed hospice care with the hospital staff and his family, LeRoy's response was, "Where do I sign?" He wanted to enjoy the rest of his time with friends and family in his own home, and hospice was the only option that would let him do so.

Hospice let LeRoy be comfortable. Upon admission to hospice, a plan was made for daily visits between family and the hospice team. The hospice team were always available if LeRoy or his family had questions or concerns. As LeRoy's cancer continued to spread, he moved to a nursing facility. The hospice team members were supportive, encouraging, and helped make a seamless and comfortable move.

LeRoy made more of life while living. He was a very positive and courageous patient. He believed there “was always someone worse off.” With LeRoy’s positive attitude and the help of the hospice team, LeRoy’s family was able to enjoy the last months of his life in a comfortable environment. Together they shared stories, jokes, and quality time without having to worry about his care.

LeRoy learned to play the accordion at a young age. Music was always an important part of his life. The hospice team helped control LeRoy’s pain so he could play his accordion for other residents and for his family. His young great-granddaughter danced while he played music “out of his box.” Though his cancer was spreading quickly and his face was heavily bandaged, he was able to continue to enjoy the music he loved so much.

LeRoy passed away on April 1, 2011, with his new best friend, a member of the hospice team, by his side. His children are thankful for the caring, respectful actions of the hospice team that made him feel so comfortable during his last months. LeRoy’s family thought they knew what hospice was but now say they didn’t have a clue. “The hospice team was truly a gift.”

for more information visit HospiceLetsMeBe.org

