

Tribute to Dale Weaver...and his family

The day after Christmas, 2017, Dale's wife, Eleanor, died at the Blanchard Valley Hospital in Findlay, Ohio. She had been sick for forty-two years and weighed sixty-eight pounds at the time of her death.

Forty-seven years ago, at age 35, Eleanor, suffering with back issues, was scheduled for a myelogram at a Toledo, Ohio hospital. The doctor, under the influence of alcohol, inadvertently injected kidney die into her spine, against the objections of the nurses assisting him. Her heart stopped ten or more times and her esophagus was damaged in an attempt to open her airway. Additional procedures damaged her stomach requiring the removal of more than half of this vital organ. Dale was told that Eleanor's heart had stopped during the test, but not that improper procedures had caused the problem. Several weeks later, Dale received an anonymous letter from a person who had been present during the procedure, and he was urged to seek legal help. In later court proceedings, the doctor was found guilty of malpractice and a settlement was reached.

Eleanor spent nine months in the Intensive Care Unit and returned to their home a dramatically different person. At home, the children, Kim, Paul, Wayne, and Ruth were greeted by a different person. Their mother was a shell of her former self and her mind had been altered by the repeated heart stoppages. At the time of her death, Wayne said it was "as if she had two different lives...before the 'test' and after." What before had been a bright, attractive, energetic person was now a frail, weakened person who confused facts and reminded some as a person with Alzheimer's. The issues she faced only grew more dramatic the longer she lived.

I explain the above as my observations as Dale's brother-in-law. Ruth (my wife and Dale's sister) and I have great admiration for Dale, who has been tested more than one might imagine. Dale suffered, mostly in silence, by remodeling cars and continuing to raise his family. An accident like this affects everyone in the family, as well as friends. God had finally released Eleanor from this world, and Dale's friends and family hope he can find solace in the fact that he was true to his vows "...in sickness and health..." and this unjust damage to Eleanor and her family is in the past. Most of us could not have done what Dale and his family did. He, and his family, has/have our admiration and respect.

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