

Hospice Alliance

December 2021



During this season of giving, our entire team at Hospice Alliance is especially appreciative of your past support. I am blessed to witness the incredible impact your commitment has made on family, friends, and neighbors, including one patient in particular named Al. His family shared their experiences with us.

You might have seen Al on stage years ago, playing his steel guitar with his country western band, Freewheelin'. Al was also a Vietnam veteran and a racecar driver; he was a big guy with a big personality and remarkable experiences, but time spent with his family was his favorite. Born on the Fourth of July, the day always entailed a party, parade, and fireworks!

Al's disease progressed quickly, and treatment wasn't beating it. After some time at home, with many visitors and round-the-clock care from his family, Al decided he needed to go somewhere else. He didn't know where that would be, and neither did his family. After learning of our Hospice House, Al's daughter Kerry asked to set up a tour. She'd heard good things but needed to see it for herself.

"My brother and I came to visit," Kerry recalled. "It was lovely. Peaceful. I pulled down my mask for a few seconds and took a deep breath. I remember the smell of coffee. The Hospice House wasn't institutional or chilly; it was warm and inviting. And there was no doubt we made the right choice, honoring my dad's wishes."

When Al arrived, the House staff set to work to make him feel at home. They gathered familiar CDs and scheduled visits from our Music Therapist. Al's son Glen had given him an early Father's Day

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gift, a laptop-style DVD player to play his favorite artists and his library was quickly expanded by his daughter, Kristin. Those speakers belted out concerts from the likes of the Grand Ole Opry and George Strait. His caregivers always had him dressed, clean shaven, and looking as if he could jump in on steel guitar at a moment's notice.

Al's last days with Hospice Alliance weren't brimming with the kind of bigger-than-life experiences of his younger years. They were comprised of simple matters: round-the-clock visits from loved ones and a heart full of the music that made his life complete.

You or someone close to you probably has a personal story like Al's about how Hospice Alliance provided comfort and support. **Sending a donation in the enclosed envelope will help to ensure our care is available to others.**

While this last year has continued to present challenges, donors like you have helped us fulfill our mission of adding life to days. I am incredibly proud of our staff and am humbled by the support of friends like you, knowing none of this would be possible without our donors.

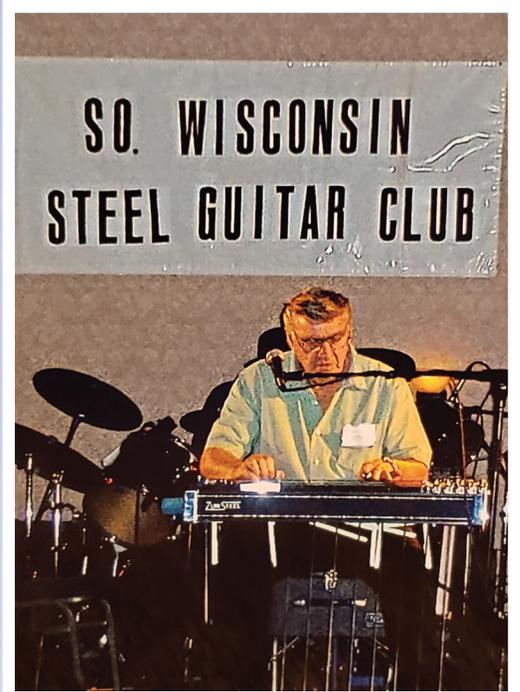
Your gift makes a difference to patients and their loved ones. It is truly a gift of compassion. **I ask that you remember the care Hospice Alliance provides during this season of giving, and that you continue to give to this incredibly important mission – thank you.**

Warmest Regards,



Rita Hagen, MSN, RN
Executive Director

P.S. Your tax-deductible gift in any amount is a huge help. Hospice Alliance never turns away a patient due to inability to pay, but your donation is critical to continue our mission. Please send your gift in the enclosed envelope today!



A life-long passion, Al played steel guitar in area bands for nearly 50 years. His career highlight was a guest appearance with the touring band Ernest Tubb and His Texas Troubadours. (Pictured on front.)