

# March 2021

To say that it's been a trying year is an understatement. I have lost valuable time with my husband due to the closure of nursing facilities.

My husband, Bob has been a resident of Green Meadows Health and wellness Center in Louisville, Ohio since January of 2019. We were sent to Green Meadows from the Cleveland Clinic after he had to undergo a tracheotomy, as well as, a feeding tube due to a cancerous tumor pressing on his larynx. The only other option was to remove the tumor and his voice box. He also has dementia and would have no way of communicating if we went that route. Because of the dementia, he has pulled the trach out several times and is in need of 24 hour care.

On March 10 our lives were turned upside down when Gov. Dewine ordered nursing facilities to shut down. Our only means of communicating for the first 4 months were by phone, video chats when someone was able to do that for us, and window visits through screens and closed windows. For some that worked but not for my husband. It was difficult for him to hold the cordless phone and when we tried using a tablet, he would look to where the voice was coming from and not at me.

In mid-July we were allowed 2 thirty minute visits a week outside. We had to be six feet apart and masked. Absolutely, not touching. Visits were cancelled because of weather and

when they had suspected cases of covid or when someone test positive.

His facility has been vaccinated with both doses. I'm aware that a handful of residents chose to not be vaccinated along with some staff. I believe everyone has the right to choose what is right for them. However, when those individuals made the choice to not get vaccinated, they also made a choice that they are at risk for contracting Covid 19. This should NOT affect my rights to be with my husband.

I was with him 6-8 hours a day prior to March 10. Just the other day he commented to me that he was too much of a bother for me to take him with me. That was heart wrenching.

I will say that my husband has received excellent care though this ordeal, but not seeing family definitely took its toll.

When Bob and I were married, the minister said, "whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

Thank you,  
Linda Schillig  
330 705-8721

