

Thank You All Employees at Heritage Manor,

On April 17th 2008 Merrill McRae moved into Heritage Manor. It was a very emotional time for our entire family because we had already learned that our mother, Mary, was dying of pancreatic cancer. A couple of weeks prior we were trying to figure out how to get our parents from Florida to Minnesota and where would they live. I had hoped that there would be a room for our father in your facility because of your close proximity to my house, about a block away. We wanted Merrill to be close to Mary so that for however many days she had left we could make sure they spent precious time together. Little did we know our mother would be gone in less than 3 weeks.

Thank you for making that painful time a little less painful. You all welcomed us and gave us time to breath and get settled before dealing with all the business, legal and financial issues.

After our mother passed away all the McRae Children went through the terrible decision making process of deciding what living arrangements would be best for our father. Many emotional conversations took place before we realized that Dad was already at his new home. Then Dad had the opportunity to move from 303 to his real home in The Park at 406. Whenever we walked into 406 we felt that we were in Dad's house!

The McRae Clan is large and at times can be overwhelming or even demanding.... and we know it! We are what we are because of our Love for our parents. You had THE PATRIARCH of our family! Merrill was the first man any of us loved and the man we will love the longest.

During the 21 months that Dad lived at Heritage there were many happy times. He enjoyed interacting with the staff often times giving them a light hearted ribbing. He had his pat answers like : how are you feeling ..."with my hands" or "fat and sassy"! He spent time watching the birds, squirrels and occasionally some deer at the feeders outside of his window. He loved having company stop by for a visit... always ending the visit with a cheerful, "Thanks for coming!"

As a family we had the pleasure of having "The Big Guy" here for so many holiday celebrations and family events. We thank you for your part in making some of those possible. We had a wonderful 4 day celebration over the 2008 4th of July because you worked with us to make sure he had an oxygen source. This holiday was even more special to us because July 4th was our Mom's birthday and this was the first one after her death. We had a special "sleep over" during Christmas of 2008 because of a snow storm that made it impossible to even travel the one block to get him home.

We send a very special thank you to all for extending your caring hands to the McRae family when in early December 2008 we brought Merrill home from a hospital stay to die. You brought us food, you brought us an extra bed and you offered to be there for whatever we needed. You also gave us personal space to care for our Dad. Thankfully, Dad rallied to have more adventures with us for another year! During the 2009 Christmas season he enjoyed an evening ride in his "MAC MOBILE" looking at the Christmas light decorations, with a scotch and soda in his hand!

When Merrill's time had truly come to an end we were so grateful that so many of us were here with him. Again, THANK YOU, for all that you did and for letting us celebrate and mourn for the life of Merrill in his home at Heritage.

*The Children of Merrill J. McRae
Edward, Sandra, Brian, Maureen, Cheryl, Shawn, Kerry & Kim
Along with all of their families,*