

ERIC – EASTLEIGH CARE HOME

'Eric' was born in 1923 and lived all his life in Somerset and Bristol.

He was a gentle Christian man who always saw the good in everybody and always tried to live his life in a way that would serve/help others

He had various jobs throughout his life but his last job before retiring was in a Care Home for the elderly. He was a great family man who liked nothing more than to spend his time with his three grandchildren.

Eric moved to the Eastleigh in September 2009.

The Staff at the Eastleigh were exceptionally good with him.

It would appear he had another stroke and he only lived for about 2 weeks after that. It was the Eastleigh's care of him during his final days that particularly impressed us.

In their entrance they had a display describing the gold standards framework and what it meant to the staff and residents. I work in a care setting myself and I am often aware that it's very easy to display information about good practise but so much harder to put it into practise!

The care my father in law received during his whole 4 ½ years there was excellent but the end of life care he received was second to none. His physical needs were of course met by well trained, experienced Staff but his spiritual needs were not overlooked and it was this that I want to commend them upon particularly. Our memories of his last 2 weeks were as good as we could have wished for and if it's possible to have good memories of someone dying they achieved this. A few days before he died, I visited with my 15 year old daughter for what would be her last visit to her beloved Granddad. When we arrived they had a visiting musician who was playing the violin and she was in his room playing gently and quietly to him. Dad loved music and although he wasn't very responsive at this point he was sitting in his chair gently moving his head to the music. For my daughter to have this as her last memory of him is wonderful. During his last days, they made sure the Vicar came and prayed with him, again something that was so important to him and us was not overlooked.

After he died we went to collect his belongings and we particularly wanted his flat cap to sit on his coffin, this wasn't in his room, because they had already sent him to undertakers wearing it, because he never went anywhere without it! How amazing is that?

Dad died with dignity, pain free, (pain relief was administered via a syringe driver in the last few days, but this was used sensibly and after discussion with us, we never at any point felt that he was suffering), he was able to stay in his 'home' surrounded by his things and looked after by people that cared and who knew him well. We could never have asked for more than that.

It is so fantastic to see good theoretical policies put into practise and I want you know that your framework really has made a difference.

2014