

Tetrick Funeral Home, Elizabethton, TN

In January 2016, Tetrick Funeral Home initiated a new community service entitled the "Tetrick Hospice Caregiver Award." Hospice workers have a high stress, demanding and sometimes thankless job, and we wanted them to know that Tetrick Funeral Home truly appreciates all that they do to take such excellent care of the families they serve.

Nomination forms were made and given to every area hospice organization that the funeral home serves in Elizabethton, Kingsport, Johnson City and Bristol, Tennessee. Nominations may be made by a family member who has used one of the area hospices or from a hospice worker who has worked with someone they think has given above excellent service to a family they have served.

Letters were sent to each office and Laura Graham, Community Relations/Outreach, for Tetrick's visited each office and gave an oral presentation of how the program works. She also left each office with nomination forms or told them that people may also go the Tetrick website or Facebook page to make a nomination. At the time of funeral arrangements, if a family has been served by hospice, the funeral director will also tell the family about this award and give them a nomination form to submit if they choose to do so.

Each month an outstanding hospice caregiver is chosen and the funeral home manager, Joe Taylor and/or Charlie Bowman, and Laura Graham go to the "stand-up" hospice meeting and surprise the recipient. Laura arranges with the hospice administrator to make sure that the recipient is present. The winner is given a lead crystal heart shaped paperweight that has inscribed they are the winner of this award. To further award her/him for this they are given a \$100 MasterCard gift card and a gift certificate for \$60 to a local day spa, so they can be pampered a little. The picture of the monthly recipient along with the nominator and funeral home representative are posted on the Tetrick websites.

At the end of the year, a Hospice Caregiver of the Year Award will be given out to one of the twelve monthly winners. The recipients will be invited along with a guest of their choice to an awards banquet. The twelve names of the winners will be placed in a bowl and one name will be drawn for the award. We felt like this would be the best way to give out this award since we cannot single one caregiver over another. The winner will receive a two night stay at the DreamMore Resort in Pigeon Forge, TN (Dolly Parton's new hotel) along with a \$500.00 gift card to pay for food and any incidentals they may need during their stay.

Attached is the April 2016 Hospice Caregiver, Emily White, R.N., who was nominated by, Charlotte Dugger, whose husband was under hospice care. This is what she had to say about Emily:

"Emily did a wonderful job as a nurse for my husband who had lung cancer. She was kind and caring. She always made sure that he had proper medication and left instructions for us on how and when to give them to him. She saw to all of the supplies we would need and ordered them for us. She made sure that he was kept comfortable and would call us to see if she needed to make an extra trip to help with him. Emily went the extra mile for my husband and our family. She comforted him and reassured us. Emily is special and deserves to be recognized!"