

Heroes in the Home Caregiver Recognition Award 2018

Dr. Wayne Tester



This is an inspirational story about the unwavering love and support of two special people. When Wayne had almost given up on the idea of marriage, he went to a dance as a favour to a friend. He didn't think Joan would ever go out with him, but when they met that night, it was love at first sight! After Wayne graduated from dentistry in 1955 he and Joan married and, every day of their 63-years of marriage, he made sure he told her he loved her and kissed her good night, every night.

Through sickness and health, this amazing couple enjoyed a wonderful life together and, for more than 20 years, Wayne provided incredible care and support to Joan. Described by his nominators as incredible, patient and selfless, 93-year old Wayne stopped at nothing to make sure he did all he could for Joan. Even when she began to experience advanced Alzheimer's during the later years and had become completely bedridden needing total care, Wayne continued to care for his beloved wife.

In fact, Wayne did everything for Joan up until the final few months of her life when a palliative care and support team began providing assistance. Joan's smiles were rare and mostly reserved for Wayne, but the care team did get a few! Wayne was most appreciative of the care team's help but Joan's well-being was really all Wayne's doing – a testament to the care, devotion and attention to detail when it came to Joan's care needs. He worked diligently to ensure his wife could maintain her independence at home, taking care of the household chores and providing assistance with Joan's activities of daily living.

Wayne saw to it that she was always impeccably groomed and dressed and went to great lengths to make her as comfortable as possible. In addition, Wayne's children and family witnessed first-hand his super strength and selflessness as a caregiver, moving mountains to ensure Joan's health and well-being. In the final years of her life, Joan was diagnosed with end-stage metastatic breast cancer and, in keeping with her wishes, Wayne made certain Joan could remain at home in comfort and peace. Joan passed away at home this past April surrounded by her beloved husband and family.

Wayne was true to Joan, supporting her always and providing a beautiful ending to their love story. Wayne, we are pleased to recognize you as a Hero in the Home!



Nominated by Nora Bridges – Jan Duncan Kalen – Janine Grieg