

## Letter of Recommendation for Jonie Gatus

To whom it may concern,

It is with great pleasure that I share this recommendation of Jonie Gatus. I first met Jonie in December, 2021. I was in the process of locating exceptional long-term care for my husband Bill, who was struggling with Lewy Body dementia with Parkinson's Disease. I was no longer able to keep Bill safe at home with me. I began hearing from various people about the tremendous benefits of board and care facilities as compared to traditional nursing homes, especially with the memory issues and the personal care needs of people like Bill. Very early in my search I began hearing the name of "Jonie" and statements about the excellent care provided in her homes. I heard it from a hospice social worker and from a nurse as well as from friends at church.

Because I needed to move Bill out of our home fairly quickly, a room in one of Jonie's facilities was not immediately available. I placed Bill in a traditional nursing home for as short a time as possible while Jonie worked tirelessly to secure him a room in her Palm Springs board and care home. She kept me updated on her progress, especially working with the hospice team providing care to Bill in the nursing home so that the transfer could happen as quickly as possible.

Thankfully, Bill was able to move into Jonie's Palm Springs home in early February, 2022. It was immediately clear that he was going to receive extraordinary care here, from the lovely private room with bathroom to the home cooked meals and most importantly the staff people who cared so lovingly for him – and for me. Within the first 2 weeks of his arrival, the staff hosted a wonderful birthday party for Bill, complete with a large spread of food, cake and decorations. Over and over in the course of the 11 months that Bill lived there Jonie and her staff went "the extra mile" for Bill and the other residents.

It was also clear that my family and I, as well as our friends, would not only be encouraged to spend time there with Bill, but we'd be welcomed into the family setting that Jonie had created in the house. Besides celebrating birthdays, all of the major holidays were observed with great care and effort. Family members

were always invited to these events. This meant so much to me, as well as to Bill's sisters and sons.

As Bill's disease progressed, as we knew it would, the care provided remained excellent. Bill was always clean, nicely dressed and out of his room except for naps. It was clear that his dignity was of the highest importance. Jonie had chosen staff people uniquely suited to care of the elderly and those struggling with challenging diseases. They were always kind, patient and good humored. They treated Bill like family, which he was to them.

Near the end of Bill's life Jonie and the staff surrounded my family and me with extra love and care as we prepared to say goodbye to Bill. As difficult as Bill's passing was for all of us, I cannot imagine going through it in another setting. My family and I were so moved when Jonie and several of the staff members came to Bill's memorial service. It meant the world to me, but it didn't surprise me. This is who these people are.

Even after Bill's passing 6 months ago, I remained attached to Jonie and her staff and see them as family. I am honored to be asked to write this letter of recommendation for Jonie and her life's work. I cannot recommend Jonie and her board and care homes highly enough.

Thank you,

Paul A. Daniels  
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7.6.23