

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Compassionate Release for Connie Farris 41922048

Up to now, I have never made one comment concerning my problems with Muscular Dystrophy in the six years that my wife has been incarcerated. Being a veteran, I have used the services of the VA clinic in Santa Maria, California for over 7 years, primarily for my health checkups. An Orthopedist at the VA saw me about my MS, and referred me to a Neurologist in San Luis Obispo, CA by the name of Dr. Mary Amir, who changed her name back to Dr. Mary Steffe Genevieve in 2015 . Dr. Genevieve , who practiced in both neurology and psychiatry, was well versed with MD. After the initial examination, Dr. Genevieve gave me a copy of her letter dated March 22, 2010, addressed to the referring doctor, which gave the results of her initial examination, and areas of concern. She also gave me copies of the letters requested in order to make the decision to allow Connie a compassionate release. (See letters)

I saw Dr. Genevieve on a regular basis, examining me every 6 months to check my health and any change in the progression of my disease. She also recommended seeing other specialists to check my heart and my breathing, which she said would indicate any major problems with MD affecting my health in other ways. Other than MD, I was always in fairly good health, but became more and more limited in my ability to perform normal daily functions as the disease progressed.

Dr. Genevieve noticed no significant changes during my appointments, that would indicate a problem with MD or other changes in my health. I had told Dr. Genevieve about the gradual weakness in the use of my left arm that had increased over time. I had explained to her that when I was 31, I had 2 surgical procedures performed to stabilize both scapula many years back. The procedure was to "bind" each scapula to my rib cage. One of the first indications that this disease is present is known as "winged scapula", where the muscle group that holds the scapula tight to the rib cage gradually deteriorates. The surgery involves taking the muscle covering in the upper thigh and turning into a "rope", that he would use to bind the scapula tightly to the rib cage. The surgery worked very well on the left scapula, but the same operation was not quite as successful for the right, but still gave me much better use of the right arm.

It wasn't until the 90's that I started losing the strength in my right arm as the "binding" began to fail, and finally to the point that I was back to square one for that arm. I was living in Las Vegas at the time and saw a specialist in 1999 who was familiar with the disease, and recommended fusing the scapula to the ribcage. The operation firmly attached the scapula to the ribcage with a plate and screws, and eventually became a part of the ribcage. Although successful, where the binding left some flexibility when using the arm, giving almost full range of movement, the permanently attached method held the scapula in solid, and virtually locked the shoulder in place. The range of motion was decreased substantially, but the strength and use of the arm was improved dramatically.

As noted with the right arm, the gradual loss of strength and movement in the left arm increased as that binding began to fail. It eventually gave very little leverage, and although the dexterity in my hands was fine, my ability to lift weight of any amount, like groceries, was greatly reduced. I was told that because of my age, the same operation to permanently attach the left scapula could not be performed. Because I had lost all leverage, I could raise my left arm no higher than

shoulder height, but not holding any weight. My right arm was gradually losing strength because of the stress from being the only arm used to lift. This had been going on for a while, and after my orthopedist had taken x-rays to examine any possible bone damage, it showed that my right rib cage was deformed from lifting only with the right arm. Since I can't lift with my left arm, lifting only with my right will continue to stress the ribcage. I lift lighter items now when reaching up to put anything in the kitchen cabinets. I have one of those extended hand things and it's great, for very light items.

I keep my kitchen clean, but can no longer clean the house, and haven't for months because I can't pay for help with only \$1713 a month SS disability. I keep myself clean, but it's very difficult because of the limited use of my arms.

I live on a second story with outside stairs and it's getting harder to go up the stairs as my legs weaken. Bags of groceries are the only heavy things I have to take upstairs, so I use a rectangular plastic carrier to drag my groceries upstairs, which keeps my chance of falling to a minimum. As will be shown in the final letter from my Neurologist, I will eventually be wheelchair bound because my legs continue to weaken, and I can hardly get up and down out of a chair now. And because of the possibility of falling on the stairs, I only go out when I absolutely have to. The only three regular trips I make is to my doctors, Vons for groceries, and Walmart for my medications which are usually \$10 for 90 day supplies of Bupropion, Benazepril, Levothyroxin, Vitamin D, Terazosin, Hydrochlorothiazide, and B-complex. I go to my orthopedist every 3 months for shots to my knees to reduce the pain, to my dermatologist, I ended a series of 21 radiation treatments for skin cancer on my forehead this last January, my endocrinologist, my neurologist, and the VA for my regular check-ups. Vons grocery store is just a mile away, so if I can no longer drive, the bus stop is right around the corner. Vons does deliver, but has a delivery charge that I can't afford.

I am always afraid of falling. Because of my increased weakness, I only shower every 3 weeks or so. It's a tub, so I have to step up over the edge. It's not the place where you want to fall. There's no handrail to hold onto. That's why I'm so very careful taking a shower in the bathtub. Because it's very hard getting in and out, I keep my cell right next to the tub so that if I do fall, I hope I can dial 911. I finally found a plastic chair at Walmart that's made to set in the tub. It has an aluminum frame to keep from rusting, but it's actually in the way, though it does give me something to hang onto which really helps.

Other than the tub, I've been lucky and have caught myself whenever I've started to fall, and the times I have fallen, the carpet is pretty thick and so far I've not hurt myself badly. But that's my big problem now, getting up. It's almost impossible to get up unless I have something to hold onto to help pull me up; my legs aren't strong enough to even try by themselves.

I've tried to find a ground floor apartment but the only one I've found has slick wood floors and I can't take a chance, it's too easy to fall on. I should have moved in the fall of 2015 when the 1st CR was supposedly going to be approved. I was only paying \$1075 a month and my rent was going up to \$1300, a huge leap, but I decided to wait for my wife's release because her warden said it would happen. It turned out that he was wrong, and the reason, of all things, was that I wasn't on my deathbed. That's what those guidelines pretty much required.

After that denial, I was getting ready to move again, and then the sentencing commission changed the guidelines for a CR, and I no longer had to be on my deathbed for her to qualify. Now everyone was saying that she would be approved for sure, because she met almost all the criteria. That was about the time my rent had gone up the year before by \$225 a month, so I had paid \$2,700 more rent for that one year and was right back where I started. But this time I didn't have the 1st month's rent and deposit or the money to move to a new place. I'm using my credit cards just to make it now. But they said the answer for the CR would be coming soon, and it actually did; Connie had been approved by the Probation Commission in January of this year. Now we could relax, finally.

I wasn't nearly as worried now because my wife's SS disability would get me back on track, and I could stop using my credit cards to live on. But as the months went by, we wondered why it took 6 months. The first CR she had applied for was denied, because my medical condition didn't meet the guidelines that were much harsher than the new ones. But this time they came up with a new excuse for her denial, and this is where everything stands.

It seems that the denial was based on a \$32m figure for restitution, which was fraudulent. That figure had been appealed to the 9th Circuit and kicked back for recalculation, as ruled by the 9th Circuit. Actually twice, on both the civil as well as the criminal cases. The restitution was never recalculated, nor was a new amount of restitution put back before the court, and yet the receiver, who had calculated the wrong amount of restitution, felt confident enough to give his false figure for the calculation of my wife's sentence. Upon my calling the General Counsel's office and giving the correct information as ruled by the jury, they verified the correct amount of \$1.9m restitution and would determine what needed to be done with regard to my wife's CR. But the denial was July 14th and it's October, and we have not been able to get any information from them. Just in case, my wife has prepared a 3rd application, but so far we don't know if anything has been done with it either. So now we can't get an answer as to what's happening after a major mistake was made on her original sentencing. She qualified for the CR until the fraudulent \$32m figure for restitution was thrown into the mix. There's no way of knowing what, or how soon something will happen.

So I've checked and I qualify for bankruptcy easily, as if it was something to brag about. Their test for minimum income showed it to be \$4300 a month, so with only \$1713 a month, there was no question; I qualify. I have no way of knowing what will happen in the future. My main problem now is having to give my 30 day notice because I just paid the last months rent that I can afford, and with the property management's requirements of boot camp cleaning of the condo, windows washed, and carpets cleaned, plus any damage they can find, that will take a chunk out of my deposit. But I don't have the 1st month's rent, and after filing for bankruptcy, won't have the credit to rent anyway. If anything can be done to expedite my wife's recent re-application for a CR, I would be very grateful to know so that I would not have to file bankruptcy and move out with nowhere to go. If you would, please let me know as soon as you find out. Thank you.

Rex Farris