

Foreword

When I set about writing my book about my stroke experiences there were several approaches to the task that I considered. I could write about all the positive aspects that occurred throughout my ordeal, based on the outcome of my survival. I could write about the negative aspects of my experiences and how I felt that things could have turned out quite different had due diligence been applied during the early stages of my symptoms. I decided instead to try and strike a balance with more weight put toward the positive aspects.

There can be little doubt that given my current state that I have some thoughts directed at the diagnosis and the part that it played in the final outcome. It was my intent from the beginning to go into some detail with respect to the symptoms I experienced in the hopes that should someone else experience similar symptoms that it would encourage them to ensure that any diagnosis that was performed would rule out the possibility that they were experiencing the symptoms of a stroke. I understand that my age at the time had a large role to play in the delay in realizing what was occurring with me and that the symptoms themselves maybe indicating something entirely different. At the same time I can't help but feel that my families background with heart problems should have raised some sort of red flag. These thoughts will always be with me. I cannot erase them from my mind anymore than anyone else under similar circumstance could do. Its just not possible to erase major events in ones life from the mind. Nor is it possible not to experience triggers in life that will cause those events to resurface; this is just part of human nature.

The events I describe in my symptoms section are as they occurred and are as I and my family recall them vividly. In writing this section I feel that I have an obligation to be as accurate I can be in describing the events that occurred. The events as described should not be construed as being the result off some grudge I have with the medical staff involved with the diagnosis performed. Indeed with the exception of one Doctor, all others who were involved in the diagnosis process believed something was seriously wrong with me.

I firmly believe that I am a strong person and in spite on trying very hard to be a hundred percent positive about my life since my stroke I do at times get sad and depressed when event triggers stir my memories. I believe that to react any differently would indeed make me unique and that I am not.

I would; therefore, just ask the reader to bear the above points in mind while reading my story.

The Author

Preface

You probably all heard the motto.... “don’t judge a book by its cover”....I know a lot of people tend to judge people with a physical disability the same way. We are different on the outside; but on the inside we’re the same as everyone else.

Since 1989 I’ve wanted to make myself heard, to hopefully change the way people think of those with disabilities such as mine. I started writing my book some time ago; but my computer crashed at the time and since that setback, I had put the task to rest. A few years later, I met a man, Dan D., and he touched my heart. As we became better acquainted he told me that I changed him. Prior to meeting me he indicated that he would see a disabled person and even if they needed help he would ignore the situation. Now, he always offers to help. When he told me of the impact I had on his view of disabled people I again felt the urge to write; if more people could see that a disabled person truly isn’t that different after all, it could make a big difference as to how the disabled are perceived by the general public.