

Susan Update: October 2026

Page One: News After a long season in home-based care, Susan has now moved to the Memory wing of a Care Center about 15 miles from home. Thankfully there was no crisis, like a fall or significant change in health, but it was the long journey taking its toll on us both that prompted the change.

Every now and then there is a subtle change in behavior or a shift in the things that need to be done for care. And over time those incremental changes accrue into another milestone behind us that seemed far away not long ago. Daughter Amy said it best. "Dad, looking closely this seems sudden. But if you zoom out and see that path you've been on, this makes good sense." Yes.

We had some important family conversations, and I made the decision to get her consistent, ongoing care.



Page Two: Susan

Everyone wants to know if she is adjusting well. And that IS THE Question! Best answer is, "She seems to be!" I don't get verbal responses, so I'm measuring attitude, actions, demeanor, and calm/distress. The security of the unit combined with a few special residents who have adopted her seems to be very helpful. After this first week, she is responding better to the staff and they are getting to know her, too. She is eating well and, with the addition of a recliner in her room, she can lie down to sleep or kick back in the recliner like she did at home. She does well whenever I leave or return. A relief.

It was a big day at Bingo last Friday when she chummed up with another person from Mt. Vernon, won a round and a prize, and actually carried on a conversation with others at the table! Didn't make total sense, but several rounds of back and forth was something we had not seen in quite some time. The staff was so excited they called me while on the way to the facility to let me know! And I was excited, too!

We appreciate everyone's concern, support and prayers during this transition.

Page Three: Gary

No fun to come home to the empty house. But walking in that first night without juggling items from the car and making sure she got in the door and the alarm turned off... I looked around and realized that, yes, things have been gradually slipping. Stuff that never quite

got put away, corners of clutter, and so on. The real shock was six hours of uninterrupted sleep. Again the next night. Seven hours the next night and eight hours after that. I haven't had sleep like that for 18 months! So regrouping and rest are a couple initial changes.

I am active at Church in a leadership role, helping the Veterans Groups, and doing Chaplaincy. This "keeping my head in the game" has been a lifesaver, but I have not been able to get out and around much. It is a comfort to know that I can be more involved and she is well cared for. All three of the girls have done "over and above" to let me get away for a few special items (like presenting for chaplaincy at a conference), and our church family has been totally understanding and supportive. As I always say, I'm a rich man... just don't have money!!

Page Four: Lessons

Each day has had "joy-moments" and challenges, but the takeaway for this transition is simply the need to look reality in the face, make the hard-right choice, grit your teeth, and move ahead. It's right to do all you can, but it's also right to admit what you can't do and get the help needed to get it done.

And though it's different, we're okay. And with the Lord, we'll be okay.

I'm grateful for family, friends near and far that think of us, pray for us, and would take my call if and whenever I would dial their number. We are richly blessed even as we walk through the valley. Thank you!