

September 25, 2014

Hi all!

I just wanted to update you on what has been going on with Mom. She had her 92nd birthday on Monday.

In early July she had a stroke. Fortunately she was with other people who recognized what was going on and she got to the hospital right away.

The stroke affected mostly her speech and swallowing. She had been having difficulty finding the right words prior to that, so she probably had a small one too. After 5 days in the hospital she went to Rehab in the same senior community that she was living in. Her speech got better and finally she was able to resume a regular diet. She hated the pureed food.

However she remained weak, still able to walk with her walker but not far. After 6 weeks in rehab the decision was that she needed to go to an assisted living facility, not back to her apartment. I gave her the choice was to go to the Assisted Living Facility where she was in Michigan, go to Vermont with brother Jonathan, or come to Florida.

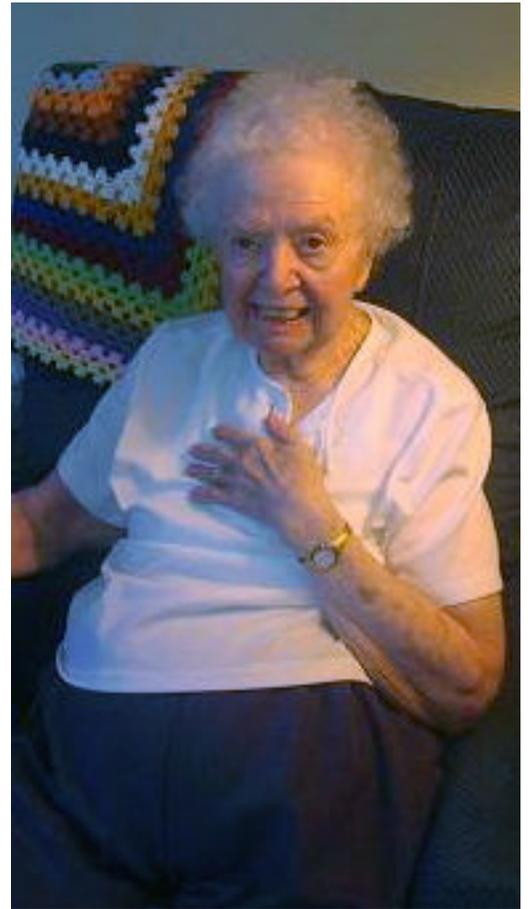
I was surprised when she said Florida. So within 2 weeks we (Joy is only two hours away in Miami) had found an ALF (there are lots of choices here in SW Florida). Shell Point is the largest senior community in the state. It has a church and a golf course, and medical offices. The main medical complex is 2 miles from her building but their van will take her to appointments if I don't. Jonathan flew to Detroit, helped her pack some stuff and got her on the plane on August 31. I picked her up and Joy and her husband, Mark, met us at the facility. Joy is in Dearborn right now cleaning out her apartment. A friend of hers will drive her truck up to bring back some things. Jonathan had identified a food pantry to donate to. It turns out it is an inner city church which also has a homeless shelter, thrift store and works to support the community. They will come and pick up! everything that we want to donate – furniture, kitchen stuff, toiletries, food, clothing, etc!!!! I know that she'll be sad to get rid of some of her stuff but I know dad is smiling as I'm sure that is what he would have wanted.

So she is settling in. Can get to meals with her walker although she is still frail. Physical therapy comes to see her. Her memory though is getting worse. It's hard to say what the problem really is because strokes can also cause memory problems.

I retired to Fort Myers (on the west coast of Florida, 2 hours south of Tampa) in January 2013. I hope never to see snow again, and now that she is down here, I don't plan to go north.

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Best wishes, Ernie