



*It's been a memorable year for me, one that has brought about an **Alphabet Soup** of emotions and conditions a person can experience.*

Anxiety - Oh no, it's New Year's Day and I'm heading for the hospital!

Bewilderment in not knowing what's happening to me.

Confusion that Altamonte Hospital doctors had no idea what ailment I had.

Depression loomed as I lay paralyzed and wondered — will I ever recover?

Exhaustion from the Rehab exercises which left me drained.

Frustration that I wasn't given credit by the Physical Therapist for the total distance walked during my challenging first steps.

Gratitude to all who cared for me and held me in their prayers.

Hope inched onward as my recovery progressed.

Inspired that all your prayers brought about divine influence.

Joy to know that I was going to be able to play golf, bocce, bowl and dance again!

Kindness of all my friends and relatives who helped me in my recovery — especially Marge, Joe, Marion and so many others.

Love overflowed and surrounded me.

Miracle that Chris and Kathy found the right doctors who analyzed my illness and started the treatment for Guillain-Barré Syndrome in the nick of time.

Narcosis was the numbness of my whole body, making it impossible to move.

Objectives and goals I set for myself were higher than the nurses', as soon as I recovered enough to stand in rehab.

Paralyzed that I can't even hold a pen to sign my name!

Quandry of not knowing what degree of recovery I might attain after all 14 days of blood plasmapheresis treatments.

Relief when Dr. Oppenheim said, “As much as I enjoy seeing you, I have no reason to see you again!”

Satisfaction that my treatment made me whole again.

Thankfulness for everyone being the “wind beneath my wings” to guide me through this ordeal.

Unbelievable comments from the doctors and nurses in watching my rapid recovery.

Vacillating so much I couldn’t pass a sobriety test!

Waivering in my balance, of all the handicap aids that were provided to me (wheelchair, walkers, etc.), the only one I used was a cane.

Xerosis - There’s nothing I can do about the evolutionary dryness of my aging tissue (skin).

Yearning to get back to my normal every day routine.

Zest for life, I can’t live it any other way!

The one word on my list that inspired me the most was **LOVE**. Love is universal, touching everyone in one way or another, showing that they care by doing some kind act for another person.

I was overwhelmed by the love shown to me by my two daughters who were by my side hours after they found out that I was in the hospital. By my son Tom who drove from Massachusetts to relieve my daughters, and get the home prepared for my arrival. By my son George, unable to travel, but in constant contact to cheer me on.

By my niece Marge (a former nurse) and husband Joe who made many trips to the hospital, since she wanted to make sure that the doctors and nurses were taking care of me properly.

By the doctors and nurses through their dedication to their professions, keeping a vigilant eye on my symptoms and solutions.

By Marion who cared for me at my home during my recovery.

By all my family and friends who came to visit.

By over 100 get well cards and emails received.

By all the prayers that were said for me by so many, including the Knights of Columbus and other groups and organizations that I am a member.

I feel like the richest person on earth by the show of compassion and love you all have bestowed upon me. As in the words of Lou Tornio from the Italian Club, “I Love Youze Guys!”

Wishing you a Healthy New Year!
~ George



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