

June 28, 2005

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202



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Dear Madam or Sir:

By way of introduction, I am Larry Koewing, a retired Air Force member. The comments I am writing are not for inclusion in the public record, and I would appreciate your keeping my name and this matter confidential. Should you need amplification on anything I present, please contact me at any time.

I am writing this letter to you after being advised to do so in a conversation with one of your staff members, whom I talked with on the telephone (703-699-2950) yesterday. I read the criteria the BRAC uses to determine proposed realignments/closures. What I have written goes beyond those criteria. Nevertheless, I am glad to read of the inclusion of Walter Reed Army Medical Center on the listing, for reasons I will indicate.

Briefly, my sweet wife died suddenly and unexpectedly while an inpatient at Walter Reed in January, 2003. Serious questions arose concerning the treatment she received then and at other times in that hospital. Specialty doctors in the Delaware area who had dealt with her advised me her treatment at Walter Reed was inappropriate. This was underscored by numerous articles published on-line regarding diagnosing and treating the ailments she had. The response from Walter Reed to my various inquiries to seek the truth for actions and inactions regarding her treatment there has been one full of delay and frustration.

For example, after I requested all of her Walter Reed created medical records, it took six months for me to receive them. And, this was achieved only with Congressional representative intervention upon my behalf.

I wrote a comprehensive inquiry to the Walter Reed Patient Affairs office to raise issues regarding her treatment. I did not receive a reply until three months later. The reply did not address numerous issues I had raised, or which invited comment. I wrote a further, well-documented inquiry and took it to Walter Reed. I encountered a distant, wintry reception at the Walter Reed Patient Affairs office, where I left the documentation for their consideration.

I cannot understand the overall attitude in their dealings with me. I can only think it to be typical of how anyone who raised in-depth questions or issues regarding adverse results at Walter Reed for one they loved would encounter. The public record for some high profile examples at Walter Reed over the last few years bears this out.

Thank you for taking time to read my letter.

Sincerely

Larry Koewing
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