

7-17-2017

I trust this can be forwarded to John McCain – the USA Senator – for the state of Arizona.

Dear John McCain (USA-Senator – USA State of Arizona),

My name is Susan Marie [CASSADY] Neuhart. We (Hans & me) heard of your recent surgery [a [craniotomy](#)]- and, I wanted to contact you – re: your prospects for a full & complete recovery – from your medical procedure. I am qualified to do this [suggest your “prospects”] because, I am also a senior person (b. 1954) and, I had a “full emergency craniotomy” (performed in December of 2012 – at the [Mission Hospital - located in Asheville, NC](#)).

According to recent news reports [below] – sir- your surgery was different from my “ full craniotomy” in many respects. For example, my neurosurgeon was (the) [Victor Perry \(MD\)](#).

The “[MAYO](#)” clinic (in Phoenix, AZ) has many “neurosurgeons – but, none (I am betting) like Dr. Perry. In fact, Dr. Perry “emergency” operated on me (my brain) – for more than eight hours straight - related to a stroke that I had suffered ([aneurysm at my MCA](#)). Specifically, a “Life Flight” helicopter picked me up – in the [USA Smoky Mountains](#) [in the dark of night] and “delivered me” to the top of his (Dr. Perry’s) 6-floors tall hospital (in Asheville, NC) – during a snow & ice storm. So, today, I am a four (plus) years “*emergency* craniotomy “survivor”). Sir, as I understand (your situation) – your arrival (at MAYO) and surgery was less dramatic.

Sir, My life {day-to-day] TODAY is pretty good. And, this is after a much more serious & *emergency* performed craniotomy procedure – than you had performed (on you recently). Thus, I am betting that your “new” life will be also very good.

Another difference (and, I have just heard this), you have another fight – now looming – for you – with “Cancer”. Sir, rest assured that ALL of your “American family” (of over 300 million strong!) is saddened to hear this; And, we will be “pulling” for you! And, we all know (also) that you will be graceful and strong for this tough fight yet to come. Senator McCain, YOU are an amazing inspiration (in fact) – An example of a true “survivor” – and, an American Hero! We ALL pray for your good survival – yet again. And, it will happen!

Returning now, to my original purpose – (which is) to cheer & encourage you. Sir, I am approved - by my [Dayton, Ohio](#) Medical Doctors [[Lawrence Goldstick](#) & [Lizbeth Bible](#)] to perform 27 [YOGA poses](#) – which I do most days – at the [Kleptz YMCA](#) – near [Dayton, Ohio](#). As you may know, Arlene & Charles Kleptz (the “founders” of the famous USA [Ponderosa Steak House restaurants](#)) made a significant donation [to the city of Dayton, Ohio] of their real-estate holdings to make this beautiful [40,000 square foot] YMCA facility happen – in year [2000](#). Then, Mr. Kleptz did pass (in 2014); however, Arlene (Mrs. Kleptz) still stops by the facility often – to greet the daily attendees & assist at the desk - if needed. She is a great inspiration to everyone that attends. In fact, knowing that other seniors are there (many seniors & survivors -just like you & me – we in fact are) – this, encourages me to attend each day.

I know that you were a Navy military pilot Sir. My husband is [[Hans Neuhart – an artist](#)] And, although a German named person – [Hans was born and raised in [New Concord, Ohio-USA](#) next to the [USA SENATOR John Glenn’s](#) family home]. Hans does ask me – each morning – if I “want to go (to our “club”) and do those YOGA poses?” I did surrender my driving license after my stroke – so, Hans’ “invitation” is a both nice and practical (also). He still drives; and, he

lifts weights – with the men – while I am doing my (Medical Doctor approved) 27 YOGA poses. He is never more than 200 feet from me. Hans and me – have frequent eye contact. We smile and talk to anyone who wants to “chat”. Hans also bought me an [iPod](#) “music box” – that I usually clip on. (I am an [R&B music fan](#) (*Aretha, the Temptations, Sly-and-the-Family-Stone, etc.*). YOU would be most welcome to visit the Kleptz YMCA - on any day you feel up to it. If you give me some notice – I will make it a point to go around with you – and, do some introductions. My only caution, most everybody knows that I am still an “Obama girl”. A civilian – I kid around and call him “Still my Commander-In-Chief”. My only daughter, works for the FBI. She lives in Washington, D.C.

Sir, since my stroke, I am required to take a medication ([Keppra](#)) – so that I do not have [seizures](#). You will probably also have to take some medications – because of your craniotomy procedure, etc. At first, I was prescribed [opioid “pain” pills](#); I took them for a short time. However, today – I do NOT take any prescription medications for pain. That is, I perform my [YOGA](#) poses and take just three [ALEVE](#) tablets per day- instead.

That’s it! I also [“dance to the music”](#) while I am performing my YOGA moves [in between the 27 YOGA poses I mean] My husband (of 35 years – Hans) – *tolerates* this all pretty well. Then, we drive home (to our modest single-family residence in - Dayton, Ohio). [Mike Turner \[OH10\]](#) is my USA Congressman. You may know him? He is the elected REPUBLICAN person. [Rob Portman \(REPUBLICAN\)](#) and [Sherrod Brown](#) – (a DEMOCRAT)-are my USA Ohio Senators. I’m betting that you do know them. They, both, speak very highly of you! Again, everyone – in America – is pulling for you!

I am tempted [here] to tell you how I feel about American Health Care (That is, my views on the current legislation); however – [Dr. Song Zhao](#)

(MD) my previous Neurologist – now in Hilliard, Ohio - did recommend (to Hans) that he purchase a URL (for me) – because, I was a “high-tech” worker – for many years (in California) – before my stroke. It was an “experiment” (his “idea”)– really – to see, if I could remember “HOW TO” build a web site – using HTML. To exercise my brain. So far, so good. My views on American Health Care – and other American political issues - are posted onto my web site.

(<http://www.hansandcassady.org/>) Thus, anyone – including you – can visit my web site – to see my political views – all stated there. Also, and in support of “emergency” procedure stroke survivors” (like me) I am proud to show what I can still do. I am not stupid – just slower (today). In fact, my “personal” web site permits me to imitate the good work of [Thomas Paine](#). Yet, another fine American. You will be proud also! ***YOU have so much to be proud of!*** Sir, you will survive! America knows this – and, we need “true heros” – like YOU! Thank you – again – for your incredible service – to our great country. [[John McCain](#)]

So, I will close (for now). Sir, I realize that you did not have a “stroke” – however, you did have a “craniotomy” – like me. This, we have in common. And, we also have – in common – the USA state of Arizona. Hans and I did live in Fountain Hills, Arizona. I worked at some “high-tech” companies there-circa 1996-98. (Just before we went to California – a move, for work purposes.) Hans (and I) have been through Phoenix, Scottsdale & Cave Creek, Arizona ~ many times.

May God bless YOU - Sir – and, your wife – with continued strength AND determination.

My husband [Hans] comments (here) in closing: “ that “after my surgery & my personal “brush-with-death” – I seem (to him) more appreciative of the things in life that really matter – like God & family.”;

In fact, I also slept (mostly) for almost one year after my surgery – so that my brain could “heal”. This is very normal – I am told; because, so

many (of my) brain cells (the neurons and their “dangly axions) were disrupted by my “emergency” craniotomy surgery. So, give your-self time to heal & sleep. Imagine – for example – if God would reach down from heaven and pluck off one of the earth’s continents; Certainly, all the other continents – that essentially float on the earth’s great surface area - would need some time to adjust – and, all of the “trade routes” – would need to be changed. Dr. Perry entered my brain [Sir] through the “[Sylvan fissure](#). And, unlike your “eyebrow” procedure, I still have prominent scars (on my skull) – to prove this.

– Respectfully (& **THANK YOU!** For your service – to the USA!) – Susan Marie [CASSADY] – Neuhart - a USA citizen.

<http://www.hansandcassady.org/> < Susan’s web site



JACQUELYN MARTIN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

John McCain.

By Denise Grady and Robert Pear

NEW YORK TIMES JULY 17, 2017

The condition for which Sen. John McCain had surgery Friday may be more serious than initial descriptions have implied, and it may delay his return to Washington by at least a week or two, medical experts said Sunday.

The Senate majority leader, Mitch McConnell, has announced that votes on a bill to dismantle the Affordable Care Act will not begin until McCain's return. A statement released by McCain's office on Saturday had suggested that he would be in Arizona recovering for just this week, but neurosurgeons interviewed said the typical recovery period could be longer.

The statement from McCain's office said a 2-inch blood clot was removed from "above his left eye" during a "minimally invasive craniotomy with an eyebrow incision" **at the Mayo Clinic Hospital in Phoenix**, "following a routine annual physical." Surgeons there are not conducting interviews. McCain's communications director, Julie Tarallo, said further information would be made public when it became available.

A craniotomy is an opening of the skull, and an eyebrow incision would be used to reach a clot in or near the left frontal lobes of the brain, neurosurgeons who were not involved in McCain's care said.

"Usually, a blood clot in this area would be a very concerning issue," said Dr. Nrupen Baxi, an assistant professor of neurosurgery at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City.

He added, "The recovery time from a craniotomy is usually a few weeks."

A statement from Mayo Clinic Hospital said that the senator was recovering well and in good spirits at home, and that tissue pathology reports would come back in several days.

But many questions have been left unanswered, including whether McCain had symptoms that prompted doctors to look for the clot. In June, his somewhat confused questioning of James Comey, the former FBI director, led to concerns about his mental status, which he later jokingly dismissed by saying he had stayed up too late watching baseball the night before.

“Usually, a blood clot like this is discovered when patients have symptoms, whether it’s a seizure or headaches or weakness or speech difficulties,” Baxi said. “Generally, it’s not found on a routine physical because doctors would not know to look for it.”

The cause of the clot has not been disclosed. The possibilities include a fall or a blow to the head, a stroke or certain brain changes associated with aging. McCain is 80.

He also has a history of melanoma, an aggressive skin cancer that can spread to the brain and cause bleeding. That cancer history could have prompted McCain’s doctors to scan his brain even in the absence of symptoms, some doctors said. The pending pathology reports are expected to help explain what caused the bleeding.

The clot could have been in one of several locations: between the skull and the dura, the membrane that covers the brain; between the dura and surface of the brain; or inside the brain itself.

Dr. David J. Langer, chairman of neurosurgery at Lenox Hill Hospital in Manhattan, said a likely diagnosis was a subdural hematoma, a collection of blood between the dura and the brain.

“You would hope it’s a subdural, a relatively benign process,” Langer said. “It’s common in the elderly, especially if they’re on blood thinners. It can occur from relatively minor head injuries. The elderly brain loses volume, and as it retracts, the bridging veins from the brain to the dura are under increasing tension, and minor trauma can cause them to ooze or leak.”

The senator’s staff has not disclosed whether he takes a blood thinner.

Such hematomas can develop over weeks and months with subtle symptoms if they press on the brain, or even no symptoms, and removing them is usually an elective procedure, not an emergency, he said.

He said the operation is relatively straightforward. Hematomas often have an oily consistency and are easily drained once the skull is opened. The piece of skull that is removed for the procedure is then put back in place and fastened with titanium plates.

“He would be able to return to being a senator in a relatively short period of time with no ill effects,” Langer said. “This is an assumption. But it sounds like something not life-threatening or even a career-threatening problem.”

Dr. Philip E. Stieg, chairman of neurological surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and the neurosurgeon in chief at New York-Presbyterian, said it seemed like a good sign that McCain was able to go home so quickly.

“I think the one possibility that’s of concern is that melanomas are known to go to the brain and they can bleed,” Stieg said. “They’ll have to wait for the pathology to come back. The good news is that 5 centimeters is a sizable blood clot, but in the frontal lobe, it should be well tolerated and hopefully he won’t have any neurologic deficits.”

