

Texas Caregivers for Compromise

2020 TRAVELING SIGN PROJECT



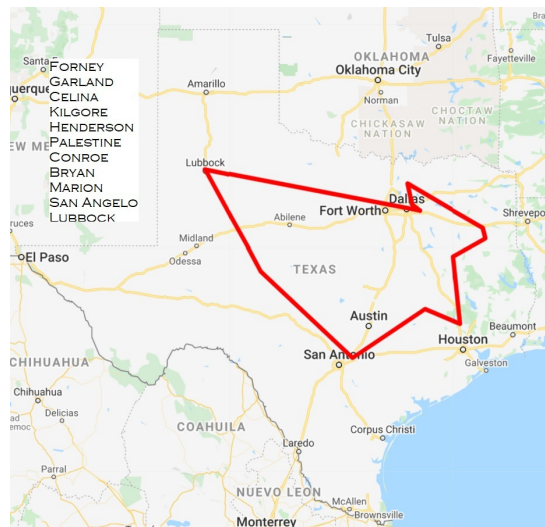
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Texas Caregivers for Compromise is a group of 3000 families advocating for loved ones in long term care facilities who have been isolated since March 13 due to the Governor's lock-out of long term care facilities in a misguided effort to keep vulnerable adults safe from the pandemic. Rather than keep them safe, these loved ones have suffered extreme degrees of weight loss, despondency, and rapid cognitive decline that have been both life threatening and life ending. In addition, the absence of outside visitors has resulted in the loss of other rights guaranteed by state and federal law including a resident's right to use their own physician, participate in activities inside and outside of a facility, be free of abuse and neglect, make their own choices about care and personal affairs, keep and use their own property, practice their religious beliefs, and refuse treatments. These rights have been abridged and denied by the lack of the admittance of the outside caregivers, guardians, medical powers of attorney, and visitors who advocate on behalf of long-term care residents.

Our group sent loved ones on a road trip across the State of Texas by proxy to call attention to the months that over 130,000 Texans in long term care have lived, died and suffered alone. The 300 bright yellow traveling signs bear the name of a loved one either still living in isolation or who lost his or her one and only precious life while living in isolation. We chose yellow as the color of separation and a longing for reconciliation.



Texas is a big state but we managed to send the signs on a route throughout the heart of it. Hosts put the signs on their residential, commercial, or agricultural property and left them there a few days allowing the public time to see them and the media an opportunity to talk to the sign hosts and film at the location. Each sign host would contact the next sign host on the route and arrange an exchange, usually halfway between the two cities. Family members who were not hosts often traveled to the nearest location in the state on the sign route where they could see the signs displayed in person and pose with their loved one's sign. The signs become a much beloved and symbolic part of the Texas Caregivers for Compromise movement.

The signs are only one part of the many advocacy efforts of our group because the reality is that while we have seen much positive change in our visitation guidelines, many long-term care facilities are still not implementing these guidelines. Texas Caregivers for Compromise continues to work to affect safe and reasonable change while helping residents receive care from the essential family caregivers they are now entitled by law to receive.

Even though the traveling signs are packed away now until we find another use for them, they shared our message that isolation kills, too in a great big, loud, Texan voice because regardless the strides we have made, right now, today, somebody is dying alone.

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2020 TRAVELING SIGN TIMELINE

- AUGUST 22 Designed a sample sign and polled group to see how many would be interested in participating.
- AUGUST 23 Fund-raiser in group to raise \$1000 for 300 signs. All income/expenditures in one account for transparency.
- AUGUST 24 Ordered signs and stakes.
- AUGUST 24 Solicited sign volunteers to host signs and began mapping out sign route.
- AUGUST 28 Signs delivered. Asked for local friends with good penmanship to write names.
- AUG 29-30 Eight teams each took a stack of signs and a list of names to write. Returned completed signs next day.
- AUGUST 30 Finalized sign route - 15 locations
- AUGUST 31 Volunteers assembled signs and they were in the ground on the first sign host's property.
- AUG - OCT Signs traveled and press releases sent at each town to the area media outlets. Sign hosts spoke to media and families took photos in front of their loved one's sign.
- OCTOBER 24 Signs completed their journey.





TRAVELING SIGN MEDIA ATTENTION



Families seeking compromise so they can loved ones in long-term care facilities

