



## Select Medical Success Story: Halen Lee

What started out like an ordinary day last summer for Halen Lee, a 64-year-old resident of North Houston and a buyer for 16 years at a local steel fabrication company, turned into a nightmare within hours. Mr. Lee recalls, "I was having a good time with my family with plans to go shopping when I began experiencing some swelling in my limbs and suddenly began to feel bad. I decided to go to the Emergency Room at Memorial Hermann and ended up facing the fight of my life." Mr. Lee ended up in a coma for several weeks and woke up at Select Specialty Hospital – Houston Heights. Mr. Lee remembers, "I was unable to breathe on my own and had been placed on a ventilator. While at Memorial Hermann, I also had a surgical procedure performed on a very serious wound I had developed at home. Many people, including my doctors, thought I might not make it."

Mr. Lee was transferred to Select Specialty Hospital in the Heights last July for ventilator weaning, wound care, IV antibiotics and physical therapy. "Thanks to the wonderful care and encouragement that I received at Select Specialty Hospital, the many prayers of family and friends and my sheer will to live, I fought back and my life was saved. I must say that the nursing, respiratory and rehabilitation staff at Select Specialty are the greatest!" said Mr. Lee. He adds, "The wound care team did a great job and were very important in my recovery." As a son, father, grandfather, brother and husband, Mr. Lee had a lot to live for, including his wife of 41 years who is legally blind. He fondly recalls, "The Select Specialty Hospital staff was so incredibly professional and caring. The receptionist would even walk my wife up to my room to see me and then walk her back down after our visit. The staff would update my wife daily and answered all of our questions. They made us feel so special."

Mrs. Lee affectionately added, "My husband is hope for a lot of people. Many churches were praying for him and even strangers would call me and offer their prayers." Mr. Lee is grateful for his son, daughter-in-law, parents, brother and grandchildren being there every step of the way. Several weeks after his frightening journey began, Mr. Lee was weaned from the ventilator by Dr. Harmohinder Kochar, a pulmonologist and critical care physician, and the Select Specialty Hospital ventilator weaning team. However, this was but one step in his return to the life he once led. Mr. Lee states, "Dr. Edmundo Yrigoyen and the Select Specialty wound team then healed my wounds, I got off the feeding tube and began to eat and walk on my own again." It was a long journey that Mr. Lee, his doctors and the caregivers at Select Specialty sometimes wondered if he could make.

Dr. Yrigoyen states, "Mr. Lee came to Select Specialty Hospital comatose and in critical condition, but he didn't give up and neither did his treatment team. Due to the superior care of the entire hospital treatment team, we were successful in helping to return Mr. Lee back to his family. He is also back at work and in excellent condition."

Today, Mr. Lee is excited to state, "I have my life back and have returned to work! Thank you Drs. Yrigoyen and Kochar and Select Specialty Hospital for everything you did!"