

Dear Ms. Siegel:

I am writing this letter to join the Congregation in honoring Chaplain David Balto, who visited me many times over 3 years while I was an inpatient on several different occasions at Medstar's Washington Hospital Center from February, 2021 through January, 2023. Although an original Maryland resident, my husband and I retired to the Delaware coastline in 2010.

My local cardiologist referred me to the Washington Hospital Center for separate serious heart and vascular surgeries. Chaplain Balto was instrumental in seeing me through the devastation of losing my only sister during Covid, not being able to have any visitation from my family (due to Covid restrictions) and facing several overwhelming surgeries. He was my strength and friend during those trying times. He held Shabbat services with me on several Fridays, and we prayed continuously for my successful surgeries and recovery. To be honest, he gave me the strength to persevere through fear of not getting through the pain and eventual amputation of part of one foot and all ten toes. I am truly grateful that Chaplain Balto is being honored for his continuous service to local hospitals, the Hebrew Home, prison, amongst many other contributions. He is professional, calming and a true hero.

Respectfully and sincerely,

Michelle Leffler Lips