

SECOND

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Cindy parked a camper in the parking lot at Riverside and was determined to stay close to her husband.

Smith's health drastically changed and each day his condition worsened. After an emergency surgery, he was put on a respirator to keep him alive. Cindy said she refused to believe he would die. "At one time his blood pressure was down to 32 over 22," Cindy said. Smith became septic, (full of infection), his lungs collapsed, he went into respiratory arrest, and his kidneys began to fail. A feeding tube was inserted to give him protein and he lost 130 pounds.

Life looked bleak for this once hard-working blue collar worker. Doctors and nurses came in many times to talk to Cindy about disconnecting life support.

"It was so weird. Just one week before Claude was involved in the wreck, we had talked about death, she said. "Claude had told me to never give up on him if anything ever happened."

The Smiths had already been through a lot. Just 2 weeks prior to the accident, his son, Matt, 31 had passed away and Smith's

father had died in August of that same year. With six children in their blended family, the thought of losing another seemed more than they could bear.

Smith's body began to swell. Cindy who didn't have any medical background but was full of fight, logic, love and hope insisted the staff not give up on Claude. "I demanded a MRI because I knew something was not being found," Cindy said.

Smith was wheeled off to surgery with little hope after it was discovered his intestines had ruptured. The surgeon told Cindy he'd be in surgery for possibly six hours if he lived through it. Family was called in, preparing for the worst.

"I remember a nurse pulling me aside and telling me that Claude would probably not make it out of surgery and that I should prepare for it," Cindy said. "She gave me time alone with Claude and wanted me to tell him goodbye."

Cindy walked over to Claude as he was about to head to another surgery. "I just couldn't tell him goodbye. I remember saying, 'Claude, you fight like hell. You are my Superman.'"

In less than an hour, Smith was out of surgery. "I was sure he had died. They came out so fast," Cindy said.

Over a foot of his intestines was removed. And like a miracle, Smith's blood pressure started improving. As the days turned into more weeks, he held on and Cindy did, too. She never quit talking to him and holding his hand.

The day he opened his eyes, Cindy was elated. "I called his name and asked him if he could hear me. I told him to move his fingers. He did. I then asked him to wiggle his toes and he did. I ran out of the room to tell the nurses," Cindy said. "I was crying and so happy."

As days passed, tubes were removed and on March 24th, Smith was moved to Bennington Glenn Nursing Home for extensive rehabilitation. It would be a month before Smith walked.

Holly Pauley, a nurse at the facility remembers Smith and his family well. "When he came over and I watch him work and help me," Smith said. "But I'm alive and people should know to never give up."

Just recently, Smith got on his Harley and rode it down to the bottom of the driveway. And just like Cindy who waited and watched in intensive care, David was at the end of the driveway, waiting and watching...just to be sure he was OK.

"He has a wonderful family," Pauley said. "They were one great support team."

In August, eight months after his horrible accident, Smith went home. He is now blind in one eye, his left arm, although full of pins and rods, is functional. He continues to attend rehabilitation for his weakened foot caused from being in bed for so long. One wonderful memory he holds is when he walked ever so slowly, down the hall at his home, he said.

"I saw a shadow. I realized it was mine and it felt good to cast a shadow — walking."

"It has brought us closer," Cindy said of the ordeal. "I knew I loved him but I never knew just how much," Cindy said as Smith wiped a tear.

"And the nursing home, our family and some special friends have helped us a lot," Smith added.

"My brother, David has helped me so much. I've always worked. Now, David comes over and I watch him work and help me," Smith said. "But I'm alive and people should know to never give up."

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SALE

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The second request contests a condition of the sale agreement that would release the new company from pending and future product liability claims related to vehicles sold before the new company's creation.

Individuals with claims against "Old Chrysler" would have to seek compensation from the parts of the company not being sold to Fiat. But those assets have limited value and it's doubtful that there will be available to pay consumer claims.

U.S. Judge Arthur Gonzalez, the bankruptcy judge overseeing Chrysler's case, approved the sale last Sunday, finding that the deal with Fiat was Chrysler's only alternative to liquidation.

The appeals court halted the sale on Tuesday, allowing the funds to appeal Gonzalez's decision. That court ruled against the funds on Friday, but continued to delay the sale so the funds could go to the Supreme Court.

Chrysler had hoped to close the sale by the end of this past week.

Auburn Hills, Mich.-based Chrysler has maintained that the sale must be completed quickly to save the automaker from complete collapse. If the deal doesn't close by June 15, Fiat has the option of pulling out. Production at Chrysler's manufacturing plants remains halted pending the closing of the sale.

Chief Judge Dennis Jacobs of the New York-based appeals court asked Thomas Lauria, the lawyer representing the Indiana funds, why he believed his clients would be better off if the deal with Fiat went away and Chrysler was forced to liquidate.

"You can't wait for a better deal to come in from Studebaker," Jacobs said.

Lauria responded that the sale could be restructured to provide a better return for the secured debtholders.

U.S. automaker Studebaker Corp. closed in 1963.

AP Auto Writer Bree Fowler contributed to this report.

RANGERS

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Davenport was in the 173rd Airborne Brigade during his first tour in Vietnam from 1968-69. His second tour in Vietnam was from 1971-72 with the 81st Vietnamese Airborne Rangers. He was there until he was medevacked out when his back "messed up." There was also an operation in the Dominican Republic in 1965.

Between his two tours, Davenport trained others to be Rangers. After his final deployment to Vietnam, he was an instructor at a Ranger camp until he retired.

There are three Ranger camps, the forests at Fort Benning, Ga.; the mountain phase at Dahlenega in northern Georgia; and the one in Florida where "you trek through the swamps for 21 days." Three

weeks are spent at each camp during Ranger training. Davenport was stationed at the Dahlenega camp where he taught mountaineering, rappelling and ambush tactics.

"Most Ranger ops are at night and behind enemy lines," he said.

All instructors are either sergeants or officers. And they train not only those in the Army, but those in other areas of service as well such as the Navy, Marines and Air Force. Davenport said even foreign troops come to be trained by the Rangers.

Today, there are about four or five other Rangers that he stays in contact with.

"A lot have died," Davenport said, adding that he, himself, has diabetes from Agent Orange. "A lot of us are messed up from that."

He said it is like a brotherhood with the Rangers — and it is hard to lose your

friends. And for all his years, and training others to be among the elite of the armed forces, Davenport was honored by having a planning bay dedicated to him. In the ceremony, he saw the two by three foot plaque that will be displayed over the next year.

"It surprised me," Davenport said when he learned of the honor to have a bay named after him. He knew that streets would be renamed after instructors, but he did not expect to be honored in this way.

And so it was then that Davenport went south on a recent weekend with two of his sons and three young grandchildren where he and five others were honored in a public open house that was attended by approximately 3,000 people.

"They never forget you, I guess," he said.

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STORE

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Milan Konstantinov was indicted on two additional charges of felonious assault and robbery, while the remaining defendants received one count each of complicity to robbery.

Delaware County Prosecutor Dave Yost said the family had a history of traveling around the country and committing crimes.

"I'm determined to have Delaware County be the last stop on their national tour of crime," Yost said in a written

release.

Last month, the family members were indicted following their May 15 arrest for allegedly robbing the Drug Mart on South Old State Road in Orange Township.

These indictments were replaced with last week's more serious set of indictments.

Deputies arrested the family in their out-of-state van a few miles from the



Mi. Konstantinov



Ma. Konstantinov



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Korotkov

store, officials said.

Delaware County Sheriff Walter L. Davis III said authorities believe the family also robbed stores at the Polarix Mall.

Authorities have since learned the family has outstanding warrants for similar

crimes committed in other states, Davis said.

The family members have already been arraigned in Delaware County Common Pleas Court and court dates are pending.

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Iraqis detain five U.S. contractors in Baghdad

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Five U.S. contractors have been detained in the investigation of the slaying of another American in Baghdad's Green Zone, officials said Sunday, in what may become the first case of U.S. citizens facing Iraqi justice under a security agreement that took effect this year.

U.S. and Iraqi officials said the five have not been charged in the death of Jim Kitterman, 60, a construction company owner from Houston, whose body was found May 22 in his car in the Green Zone. He had been blindfolded, bound and stabbed.

Police spokesman Maj. Gen. Abdul-Karim Khalaf said the Americans were being held at an Iraqi police station inside the Green Zone "in connection with a joint U.S.-Iraqi investigation" into Kitterman's death but gave no further details.

"Until now, the detained persons are suspects and no formal charges have been filed against them," he told The Associated Press.

U.S. Embassy spokesman James Fennell confirmed that five Americans were in Iraqi custody but said no formal charges have been filed so he couldn't provide further details about the detention.

A U.S. official familiar with the case said the five were being

investigated for allegations other than murder. He spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation was continuing.

Interior Minister Jawad al-Bolani, who supervises Iraqi police, said it appeared that Kitterman was killed because of an undisclosed "financial situation."

The five were believed to be the first Americans taken into Iraqi custody since the U.S.-Iraqi security agreement went into effect this year. The agreement removed immunity from Iraqi law enjoyed by private U.S. contractors since the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime in 2003.

Embassy officials have visited the men to make sure they're being given their rights in accordance with Iraqi law, Fennell said, adding "the men appeared well."

He said FBI agents were present during a search of the men's quarters at the request of Iraqi authorities who are handling the investigation.

U.S. and Iraqi authorities declined to identify the contractors.

However, an official of Corporate Training Unlimited, a Fayetteville, N.C.-based security company, said the five included Donald Feeney Jr., 55, who founded the company in 1986, his son Donald Feeney III, 31, and three other employees.

AP Newsbreak: Major problems found in Iraq spending

By RICHARD LARDNER Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — This is one Christmas gift U.S. taxpayers don't need.

Construction of a \$30 million dining facility at a U.S. base in Iraq is scheduled to be completed Dec. 25. But the decision to build it was based on bad planning and botched paperwork. The project is too far along to stop, making the mess hall a future monument to the waste and inefficiency plaguing the war effort, according to an independent panel investigating contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In its first report to Congress, the Wartime Contracting Commission presents a bleak assessment of how tens of billions of dollars have been spent since 2001. The 111-page report, obtained by The Associated Press, documents poor management, weak oversight, and a failure to learn from past mistakes as recurring themes in wartime contracting.

The report is scheduled to be made public Wednesday at a hearing held by the House Oversight and Government Reform's national security subcommittee.

U.S. reliance on contractors has grown to "unprecedented proportions," says the bipartisan commission, established by Congress last year. More than 240,000 private sector employ-

ees are supporting military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thousands more work for the State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development.

But the government has no central data base of who all these contractors are, what services they provide, and how much they're paid. The Pentagon has failed to provide enough trained staff to watch over them, creating conditions for waste and corruption, the commission says.

In Iraq, the panel worries that as U.S. troops depart in larger numbers, there will be too few government eyes on the contractors left to oversee the closing of hundreds of bases and disposal of mountains of federal property.

At Rustamiyah, a seven-acre forward operating base turned over to the Iraqis in March, the military population plunged from 1,490 to 62 in just three

months. During the same period, the contractor population dropped from 928 to 338, leaving more than five contractors for every service member.

In Afghanistan, where President Barack Obama has ordered a large increase of U.S. troops, existing bases will have to expand and new ones will be built — without proper oversight unless the Pentagon rapidly changes course.

One commander in Afghanistan told the commission he had no idea how many contractors were on and off his base on a daily basis. Another officer said he had property all over his installation but didn't know who owned it or what kind of shape it was in.

There are questionable construction projects in Afghanistan, too. The commission visited the New Kabul Compound, a building intended to serve as headquarters for U.S. forces in Afghanistan. But mem-

bers saw cracks in the structure, broken and leaking pipes, sinking sidewalks and other defects.

"The Army should not have accepted a building in such condition," the report says.

The commission cites concerns with a massive support contract known as "LOGCAP" that provides troops with essential services, including housing, meals, mail delivery and laundry.

Despite the huge size and importance of the contract, the main program office managing the work for both Afghanistan and Iraq has only 13 government employees. For administrative help, it must rely on a contractor.

KBR Inc., the primary LOG-

CAP contractor in Iraq, has been paid nearly \$32 billion since 2001. The commission says billions of dollars of that amount ended up wasted due to poorly defined work orders, inadequate oversight and contractor inefficiencies.

In one example, defense auditors challenged KBR after it billed the government for \$100 million in costs for private security even though the contract prohibited the use of for-hire guards.

KBR has defended its performance and criticized the commission for making "biased" statements against the company.

"As we look back on what we've done, we're real proud of being able to go into a war the-

ater like that as a private contractor and support 200,000 troops," William P. Utt, chairman of the Houston-based KBR, said in May interview with AP reporters and editors.

KBR is also linked to the dining hall construction snafu, although the commission faults the military's planning and not the contractor. With American forces scheduled to be out of Iraq by the end of 2011, the U.S. will use the new facility for two years at most.

In July 2008, the Army said a new dining facility was badly needed at the Camp Delta forward operating base because the existing one was too small, had a saggy ceiling, poor lighting and an unsanitary wooden floor.

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