

KOREAN WAR VET RECEIVES A NEW SMILE WITH DENTAL IMPLANTS

Who would have thought a piece of mail would establish a friendship between a Korean War Vet and a dentist?

Leonard Krauss, a 90 year old Korean War veteran who lives in Randolph, NJ received a mailing from Dr. Ira Goldberg advertising dental implants. "I knew I needed something done," stated Lenny, "because the Veteran's Administration was at a limit as to what they could do for me. I've had full dentures for the upper and lower jaws for years, and they just didn't fit right. My digestive tract was affected, I couldn't eat many foods, and I was simply unhappy."

"Unhappy" is not what Dr. Goldberg and his staff ever saw from this gentleman. "Mr. Krauss has never been caught once by me or my staff in an unhappy state or mood. He's always smiling, cracking jokes, telling us military stories in the most positive manner, and living life to its fullest."

"Mr. Krauss had a very serious dental problem. He presented to me with advanced bone loss in both the upper and lower jaws. We (meaning Dr. Goldberg and his staff) see this all the time, so we know how to handle it. The Veteran's Administration, as well as most dentists, are not equipped to deal with this kind of crippling situation. We are."

A 3-D scan taken right in Dr. Goldberg's office showed nerves that were just about to be exposed. "When this occurs, a patient has constant pain. We were dead-set in avoiding Mr. Krauss from living with this problem. In our experience, dental implants are the most predictable method to restore his oral health, which in turn would also improve his systemic health."

Of course, Lenny needed to know what the financial investment for correcting this issue. "We can always ballpark a fee for a patient, but its difficult to get a real accurate number until we go through some preliminary, diagnostic steps. I told Mr. Krauss to let us do this over five appointments, and there wouldn't be any fee to him until we finished them and he accepted treatment. This sounded reasonable to him, so we proceeded."

It was during these preliminary and diagnostic appointments that the relationship bloomed. Dr. Goldberg and his staff looked forward to spending time with Lenny. They even made his appointments longer than necessary to enjoy each other's company.

At the end of these appointments, Dr. Goldberg and his staff learned Mr. Krauss had very little financial backing for the dental care his truly needed. They also learned what he has done for our country. Furthermore, they found out he has a granddaughter in West Point Military Academy, and he has a goal of living long enough to see her graduate. Without being able to digest quality foods, longevity can become severely compromised.

"What this man has done for our country is outstanding, and should be applauded. He is also a kind and tremendous human being," stated Dr. Goldberg, while his staff fully agreed. We decided to take care of his dental needs pro-bono."

When Lenny was first told this, of course he refused to accept. "We twisted his arm a bit, and he came around," joked Dr. Goldberg. The plan was to place 4 implants into the lower jaw and attach non-removable teeth to those implants. For the upper jaw, a brand new denture would be fabricated.

Dr. Goldberg decided to do this procedure in a manner called, “guided surgery.” Guided surgery is when a guide is fabricated from 3-D technology using specialized software in order to place implants into precise locations with minimal surgery. Again, this is technology that Dr. Goldberg owns and is well-versed in due to the amount of implant procedures he and his team perform. In fact, he even teaches the material to other dentists.

“I decided to use a guided technique for Mr. Krauss due to some of his medical conditions and medications. He suffers from atrial fibrillation, and therefore he is on blood thinners. I wanted to minimize the amount of bleeding, and avoiding certain types of Novocain that could aggravate the A-fib. People oftentimes think age is a factor, but it really isn’t. It’s the health of the patient.”

Mr. Krauss’ treatment was completed in March 2018. His world has been turned around by the procedure. He’s now able to eat any foods he wants, and his smile is second-to-none. We welcome you to watch his story on Dr. Goldberg’s website: MorrisCountyDentist.com You can also find it on YouTube and Facebook.