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COURTESY PHOTO

Bill Eagle of Southold was an avid pilot throughout his life and taught his daughter how to fly.

Southold man dies of COVID-19 after seven family members became infected

BY JOE WERKMEISTER
EDITOR

From his bed at Stony Brook Southampton Hospital, Bill Eagle tried to reassure his wife, Martha: "Hang in there," he repeated.

The Southold couple had tested positive for COVID-19 within two days of each other in early September. After a

week of at-home care, their conditions deteriorated to the point that they both were transported via ambulance to Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital on Sept. 13. The virus had initially hit Ms. Eagle hardest, putting her into a daze unlike anything she had ever experienced during an illness. Her husband cared for her at home, cooking her eggs and bringing her tea, until the virus finally left him unable to get out of bed.

COVID-19's effects can vary widely from patient to patient. Ms. Eagle's condition improved enough so she could be released from the hospital on Sept. 16, the same day her husband was transferred to Southampton, which is better equipped to treat more severe COVID cases.

Soon afterward, as they spoke via FaceTime, Mr. Eagle explained to his wife that his oxygen saturation had been

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