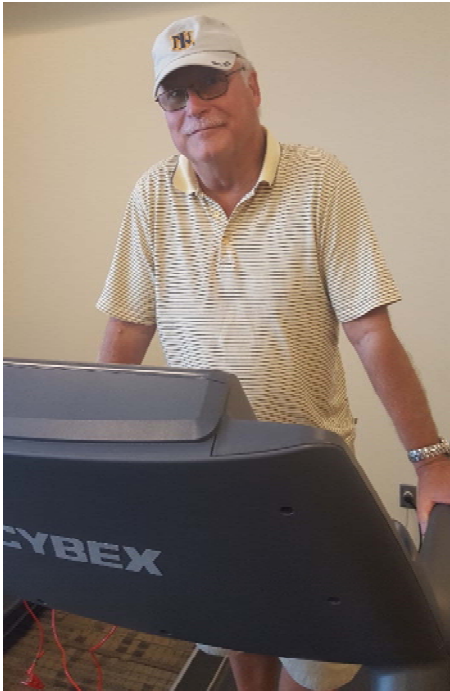




CRAWFORD COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

CAT + CCMH EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT = LIFESAVING TREATMENT FOR JOHN MILLER

"I had indigestion to the max at home but I had been reading all this stuff in the paper about E. coli. I had eaten a ton of lettuce at lunch so I thought it might be E. coli, which is what everyone wants to think when they have a family history like mine." That's John Miller of Denison talking about his heart attack. Because of a family history of heart issues, John was very aware of the possibilities for a cardiac episode.



"My brother had already had open heart surgery, my dad had open heart surgery, and my mom had open heart surgery, so I kind of knew it was coming but I was still hoping it wasn't a heart attack," Miller related. "I knew in my lifetime I was going to end up having stints or open heart surgery at some point. It was the sweating that I had never experienced before."

John was alerted to his heart attack by his cat, Randy.

"My cat, Randy, adopted me, and over the years I've started letting him in the house," Miller recalled. "He was on my bed pushing on me and walking around on top of me trying to get me up. I did get up, and I was sweating like crazy, but I had no pain."

Not sure of what he was experiencing, Miller went to his computer and googled, 'heart attack'.

"I went through the symptoms, and I didn't really have a lot of symptoms aside from the sweating and just a little bit of pressure in my chest. So, I got in the car and I drove out here (Crawford County Memorial Hospital) – and, of course, they gave me hell for driving out and not calling for an ambulance – but when I came in they took me right down and hooked me up to monitors, and I ended up taking a helicopter ride to Mercy in Des Moines."

"When I came in to the ER, they put me on a bed in the emergency room. I asked the nurse, 'Am I having some cardiac issues, or did I get food poisoning? What the heck is going on?' And she told me I was having a cardiac event. I was lucky that I was in Denison to be able to get out here as fast as I did."

Miller's heart stopped beating while he was in the Emergency room. CCMH ER staff shocked Miller's heart back into action and stabilized his condition before transporting him to Mercy Hospital.

"They (Emergency Room staff) were all very good to me. They were reassuring that things were going good, and they answered all of my questions. Even while getting me on the helicopter, they put headphones on me to protect my hearing, but also so that I could hear them (helicopter crew) and they could hear me, and they were constantly asking if I was ok and how I was feeling."

Miller says he has increased affection for his "roommate". "If I didn't have that cat, I probably would have died, because he insisted that I get up, and I tell him that! Otherwise I probably would have just kept sleeping, rolled over and died. I've had cats before and they'll come up and lay on you, but he was so insistent that he wanted something that I had to get up. My brother took care of him for three days when I was in the hospital, and I think he (Randy) was pretty glad to see me when I got home!"

"I really appreciate CCMH being so close and accessible. It probably took me from midtown Denison about 4 minutes to get out here, and once I got out here my worries were over, but I kept thinking 'what if something happens along the way?' If it was a further drive, I would have been long gone."