

## UPDATE ON LOU WALTER

**5/3/2022:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—Lou finally had surgery two weeks ago. His foot is healing magnificently and he had a weight-bearing cast put on today at his post-op. He is currently in a skilled nursing facility for wound care and may be going back into assisted living soon. We were thrilled that the surgery didn't bring on any MRSA, any bedsores, or any complications. In a couple weeks we hope to make arrangements for him to be admitted to an assisted living facility in Portland, near Joey.



**2/21/2022:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—Lou is now scheduled for surgery in mid March. He is in the midst of getting checked that his health is able to stand surgery. He has his power wheelchair now and is out and about in the neighborhood around the quarry, going to a little French café every day for lunch or breakfast. He had his first incident on his chair yesterday slipping off the curb on his way for lunch that's some wonderful passersby helped write him and get him on his way. His spirits are high. He's able to have visitors now to Quarry and I know he would love to see anyone who is able to make the trip to Vancouver, just give him a call ahead of time.



**1/11/2022:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—Lou's surgery is on hold—most elective surgeries in Washington have been cancelled due to COVID. Good news is that he received his power wheelchair and is busy learning how to use it (picture attached). I've been waiting for him to post a picture of himself SMILING in the chair so he looks as ecstatic as he says he feels, but crickets so far!

Anyway, his birthday is Friday. He will be .....OMG.....really OLD! I'm sure he'd be thrilled to hear from as many of his "old" friends as possible. I seem to be stuck in the "old" theme. I'll stop now. You can text him at 206-915-6844. It's the best way to reach him since he doesn't use FB and his voicemail box is often full.

**11/30/2021:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—Lou has been scheduled for surgery on December 22. He is working on his PT and doing well, health wise. Today he is going out to lunch with some union buddies and have a cigar. Prayers and fingers crossed for a successful surgery.

**10/28/2021:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—A couple photos of Lou—he is really working hard to build up his strength. As soon as the doc is certain that the MRSA in his knee is healed, they should be able to schedule surgery to straighten out his feet.

**10/21/2021:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—Lou is doing very well! This past week a friend from the IBEW picked him up at the quarry and took him to Centralia to meet two other friends for lunch. He had a thoroughly enjoyable time and it did amazing things for his morale. An update from his infectious disease doctor and he was told that as soon as they're sure the knee is completely cleaned out, they will schedule him for surgery. Surgery has been authorized on both feet, hoping that when they are flat he will be able to start taking some steps. Still a long journey ahead of him but we are all very encouraged. Him especially. Thanks to his friends from the IBEW, sorry I can't remember your names, but he was absolutely thrilled with his outing!

**9/11/2021:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter— Lou is back in the hospital. He has a bad infection in his right knee and he has had surgery on Thursday to clean it out, and again today. The doctors are optimistic that they got everything but he is on oral antibiotics for the time being. He is in good spirits. We don't know what infection it was, it will take a few days for the culture to grow. Needless to say, we are hoping it is not MRSA again. He is in good spirits.

**8/12/2021:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter— To those who have tried to reach Lou by phone....he is not real good about answering his phone nor is he real good about emptying his voice mail box. As usual, his phone is always at his side and he answers most of the time. Texting works as well, so keep trying. Again, it is not good to send plants, etc. He is bed-ridden and cannot take care of live-things; Joe ends up taking them home. Lou is unable to get to his mail box as well. You are welcome to send cards and letters to my home and I will get them to Joe for delivery. All in all, it is still pretty convoluted, but I'm sure Lou would appreciate your staying in touch. His current address is: 7505 W Yale Ave. #2606, Denver CO 80227.

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**8/9/2021:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—Lou is quite frail. He was hospitalized with MRSA again in July and has lost quite a bit of weight, down to 145 lbs. He has returned to the Quarry Senior Living after a week in the hospital and another amount of time in a skilled nursing facility. He has learned to "order on line" so is happier with this food supply. David, Birgit and Aurora were in town the first part of July and were able to spend some time with him. He is having some difficulty managing his BP as well as experiencing quite a bit of vertigo and nausea and he is working with doctors to get that under control. He had hoped to have additional surgery on his feet - the left one to release tendons and muscles to allow it to move a bit free-er and to be flat and his right foot to release some tendons to make it flat--all in order to help him begin to stand and take some steps. Due to the rise in COVID admissions, the surgery may be put off for some time--we won't know for a week or so if it can be scheduled. Our hope is to have it done as soon as possible and then for him to begin some intensive physical therapy so that he can begin to take some steps.

**6/23/2021:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—Lou is doing much better. He was able to transition to oral antibiotics and return to his room at The Quarry. Happy, happy, happy. He still is seriously injured and has not been able to stand up or to walk, but he is mentally improved and anxious to get to work. He suffered a bit from dizziness and nausea there for a while, and lost quite a bit more weight, but is working steadily on eating more and trying to gain weight. Joe spent Father's day with him and gave him a "spa" day --- shave, nails, etc. He will be having additional surgery to repair his foot -- we asked that it be scheduled in late July so that he will not be in quarantine when David and his family arrive for a visit. Quarantine is very hard on Lou and his health suffers greatly when he is unable to visit, especially with Joe.

**5/23/2021:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—It has been a rough few weeks for Lou. The MRSA has caused him quite a bit of pain, dizziness and nausea. This week he has improved quite a bit and has restarted PT. He had a nice “window” visit with Joe yesterday which lifted his spirits quite a bit. Joe has promised to return next week and give Lou a shave—he’s looking remarkably like Ernest Hemingway.

**5/2/2021:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—Lou is a bit more alert, but still very fragile. I have no updates currently on the status of the MRSA, but hope to know more tomorrow. His mailing address is Manor Care, 2811 NE 139th St. Room 143 Vancouver WA 98686. He is currently in quarantine and I was not able to visit him on my final two days in Portland, so we talked via Facetime. Or, rather, I said hello, and he went back to sleep. He is very, very tired and has issues with his heart now. Once he is out of quarantine (another week or so) he would LOVE to have visitors. Appointments for a visit are required and I know they allow visitors on Thursday and Saturday (they mentioned another day, but, honestly, I wasn't listening). They did move him to a room with an outside window and Joe and Isaac were able to talk to him through that window last night. You can certainly call him on his cell phone (206-915-6844). Joe has asked that no one send flowers or plants or candy, etc., because he just can't take care of the plants and flowers (and Joe doesn't want any!) and candy is tough on his diabetes (I thoroughly enjoyed the chocolates sent to him previously when I visited him the past two weeks! Thank you very much :-). Not that my waistline appreciated the joys of chocolate.

**4/27/2021:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—Lou had had a tremendously rough few days. The MRSA infection is in his spine, neck and shoulders. Due to that, he has been moved from the Quarry assisted living situation to a skilled nursing facility. He is in a lot of pain but happy to be out of the hospital. He will continue his PT and OT while undergoing wound care and other nursing care at the Salmon Creek Oregon Manor care facility. He was moved there this evening and he’s getting settled in.

**4/24/2021:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—Lou is doing much better. He is not nearly as sedated, and he had a port put into his arm today. He will be on IV antibiotics for the next three months, trying to clear out the MRSA infection. We are not sure where he will be situated -- the hospital is looking for a rehab place for him to go to because the quarry cannot take him while he has an IV in his arm. He is still in very fragile shape and we are encouraging him to participate as much as he can in rehab, PT and personal care. As soon as we know where he’ll be located, we will post an address on this site.

**4/21/2021:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—Lou is still hospitalized and heavily sedated.

**4/19/2021:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—Lou was admitted to Peace health hospital at 3 AM this morning. The MRSA infection is in his back, shoulder, neck, and spine in addition to the UTI. He’s on some pretty heavy duty Intravenous antibiotics. V antibiotics. Visited with him this morning, he was able to eat lunch but he’s not picking up his phone. He is in a lot of pain.

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**4/18/2021:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—At the ER with Lou. He was doing so well before this. He seems to have cascading symptoms.... lots of pain( recurring MRSA?), now a UTI, blood pressure is going up, confusion. Mostly great pain. They are trying to get him an MRI, but his pain level makes it very difficult to lay flat for the length of time needed.

**3/29/2021:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter— Lou continues to improve although he is still not able to do his physical therapy. His wound care continues as does the five-day-a-week hyperbaric treatment (his skin looks great).

**3/9/2021:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—Lou is looking great today! Here is a pic of him in his new digs at The Quarry in Vancouver WA—room 352. He has been undergoing quite a rigorous schedule of wound cleaning. You may remember he got a bad infection in his foot and he has a wound VAC on the foot as well as twice weekly visits to a wound doctor to clean it. While the wound is healing nicely, the infection has gotten into the bone. He has been put on Antibiotics and the doctor has recommended hyperbaric treatment for 90 days. Our hope is to save the foot and avoid amputation of his lower leg. He is in good spirits, is eating well and staying on top of other aspects of his treatment.

**1/29/2021:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—Lou is feeling very good now; no more talk of amputation for now. Not only is he feeling better, he is looking better—he was able to get a haircut! No more Prince Valiant. I'll try to get a picture of him tomorrow and post it for your viewing pleasure. He sent me a picture of the wound on his left heel—I won't be posting THAT! You're welcome.

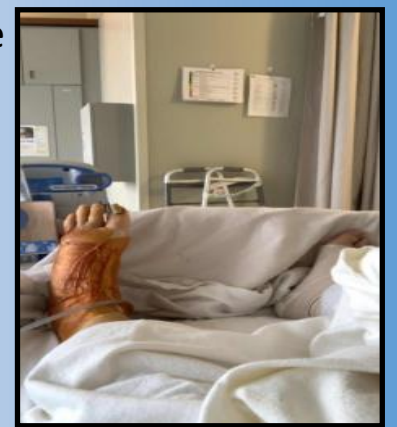
**1/16/2021:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—Lou has not been well lately. He was in the ER on Thursday for IV fluids and very weak. Some issues with vertigo. Hope he starts to feel better soon. He was able to keep food down yesterday.

**1/10/2021:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—SGN - some good news! Lou has been moved to the Quarry Assisted Living, 415 SE 177th Ave in Vancouver WA 98683. He wounds have improved substantially although they are still being watched closely. He is in a small apartment of his own, although he still requires a great deal of direct care. He will begin his home healthcare therapy on Tuesday and hopes to quickly get back to where he was before he was sidelined by his wounds and his toe amputation. Quite an improvement in his standard of living; he is very happy and continues to have a great attitude. His 76th birthday is coming up on January 14-I know he would appreciate any well wishes and cards you could send.



**12/20/2020:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—WOW! Lou was taken into surgery early this morning for wound cleaning on his left foot. His baby toe *was* amputated. His spirits were good (how much of *that* was due to meds?). Now more waiting. I know what you're thinking—wound cleaning and amputation but they couldn't trim that toenail? Patience, grasshopper.

**12/18/2020:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—This afternoon, Lou was admitted to the wound care hospital due to the severity of the infections on his left foot and right leg. He will have surgery next week to have the wounds cleaned and, most likely, the amputation of a toe. His attitude is upbeat (he's looking forward to the food). It may be that he will be in the hospital until after the first of the year.



**12/16/2020:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—Lou was scheduled to move to a long term care facility today at noon, but due the level of care he still needs for his open wounds, his move has been postponed. It is for the best and still May happen before the end of the year. His attitude is terrific and upbeat.

**12/12/2020:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—Lou is getting stronger. A few days ago he was actually able to take six steps twice, using his standup walker. On the serious side, he has two open wounds, one in each foot. They are necessitating some careful watching to avoid the danger of losing the foot. He may be moved to assisted living this week, The highlight of which will be the opportunity to get a haircut although he is looking quite prince valiant-y with his page boy. When he is moved to the new facility, we will post his new address. He will still be in Vancouver Washington.



**11/26/2020:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—To my family, I couldn't find any success without your support...today for all the people who wish me the best in my recovery and offered up prayers and thoughts regarding my condition, thank you from the bottom of my heart. I'm truly blessed to have such great friendships and thank you very much. I'm getting stronger every day and my recovery is going well!

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**11/14/2020:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—Lou's therapy has been put on "pause" for the time being, due to the cast on his foot. The only physical therapy he can do is what he can do in his bed and he is committed to that. He is spending time in his wheelchair, and seems to be eating well. It looks like he may be impacted by COVID-19 due to low staffing levels. His cast is still being changed weekly, this week he's using Seahawk colors. But he enjoys getting out of the hospital for the ride to the doctors office for the cast change. Plus he gets to ride sitting in his wheelchair instead of on a gurney.



**11/7/2020:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—From himself: No haircut for over five months! Making progress in my recovery to get stronger every day but it will be a long haul. In hospitals since June 3rd. Cast on foot/ changed every week.



**10/28/2020:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter

Lou standing up! Four months after the accident, he was able to stand up for three and one-half minutes! Hurray for you, Lou—keep up the hard work!

**10/24/2020:** Journal Entry by Terry Walter—Lou continues to improve! He's working hard on his rehab, learning to stand on the parallel bars and strengthening muscles in his entire body. Bandages have been removed from his finger, which didn't have to be amputated. He will have a lovely scar, which I'm sure he'll get a lot of mileage from. On his recent visit to his doctor, for the first time he was able to ride sitting up instead of on a stretcher. The highlight of this week was being able to vote.



**10/14/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter—From Lou: Enjoying my gift blanket from Local 77...I use it every night!

**10/11/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter—Lou is doing well and getting stronger. He has had numerous successes on the sliding board and has stood up twice on his leg (with a walker). That felt good, he says. He really likes the beautiful blanket Local 77 sent him (picture to follow). He is making peace with his lot in life right now (Lalena) and is enjoying the challenges. He is making great progress (small though it is). His mailing address is: Manor Bridge Care Center, Room #228B, 2811 NE 139th St, Vancouver, WA. 98686.

**10/2/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter—Lou is being moved today to a skilled nursing facility. With the pic line inserted, he is able to receive the MRSA antibiotics 24/7 until October 28. He is feeling very good and enthusiastic about his abilities to participate more fully in his rehab. The hardest part about the move is that he is not allowed any visitors due to COVID concerns.

**9/27/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter—Lou is still in Peace Health Hospital in Vancouver. A pic line was inserted in his body yesterday, Saturday, September 26. It was to facilitate the use of IV antibiotics which are being used to fight the MRSA. This will allow him to be moved to a skilled nursing facility where he can continue his physical and occupational therapy.

**9/23/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter—MSRA is kicking Lou's butt.....no additional info yet other than he is on IV antibiotics. Diabetes is adding to his issues, but he is working hard to kick it back. When we know more, you'll know more.

**9/18/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter—Quite a scare—MRSA infection has appeared in Lou's body. Not sure how he got it and he has started antibiotics. He was supposed to get an MRI last night but was in such pain they put it off until sometime today and will put him under to do it. They are checking for osteomyelitis in his neck & spine.

## UPDATE ON LOU WALTER

**9/4/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter—Lou continues to improve, little by little. He is working very hard at his rehab, PT and OT. Today he got to sit in the sunshine and he was able to use his arms to wheel the wheelchair a bit. He still has a lot of pain in his shoulder, but it is getting bearable, little by little. He may be in line for a release date at the end of the month, depending on his improvement. If it happens, he will go to a group home or assisted living facility where he can continue to have therapy on an outpatient basis.

**8/30/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter—Lou SO appreciates the lovely plants so many of you have sent! So thoughtful. BUT he is unable to care for them, nor is the hospital staff. Joe has taken them home but his green thumb is getting overwhelmed! Notes and cards would be easier for Lou to manage and Joe would only need scotch tape for Lou to enjoy them. And thanks so much for thinking of Lou.

**8/21/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter—Lou's surgery seem to be very successful. His spirits are high and he is looking forward to finally getting started on physical and occupational therapy. He is waiting now to see if he will stay at Peace Health Center or return to Vibra Hospital for his therapy.



**8/17/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter—Lou has taken a bit of a negative turn. He had a bad pain episode yesterday and was given some rather strong pain meds. He slept most of the day and ended up having a very serious hypoglycemic episode when nurses were able to wake him. He was quite frightened during the episode. Thus morning he was given results from tests after the episode. He has a UTI as well as an infection in his leg (with the fixture) and numbness in his right arm. The concern is that he may not be able to have surgery as planned on Wednesday. He is now on antibiotics, both orally and topical, so ...fingers crossed.



**8/15/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter—I want to thank everyone for their kind thoughts & hopeful prayers... I truly appreciate everything that I received... thank you & hope you & your families are safe & well... God bless us all! —Lou

**8/12/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter—Some Good News: Surgery has been scheduled for early next week for Lou's knee repair and removal of the external fixture. The hope is that he'll soon begin PT and OT once healed. While Lou is worried about the intubation impacting the healing of his larynx, he's looking forward to the next phase of his recovery (and getting out of that bed!). His doc had mentioned that they may need to amputate down to the first knuckle of one of the fingers on his left hand, but so far they are giving it additional time to heal—and we're all hoping it won't be necessary.

**7/31/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter—Lou was transported by ambulance for his appointment with the orthopedic doctor. They decided to keep the external fixture in the leg for the time being and are setting him up with a hand doctor to check out his left hand. His left leg is doing extremely well, he is able to stand on it and put weight on it, so the doc was pleased. He will meet with the doctor again in a couple weeks and, hopefully, a decision will be made about additional surgery--he needs to have his right knee repaired, along with pins removed from his left hand and, of course, the eternal, external fixture decision! Due to the undiagnosed injury to his larynx, he has had some difficulty breathing and the nurses and docs at Vibra are watching him closely. It has been a frightening couple days for him, especially at night, but he rallies during the day. After his knee surgery, etc., he is facing six to nine months extensive physical therapy as well. He will remain in Vibra for the time being due to continued wound care needs.

**7/22/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter—Lou's doctors and Vibra hospital are working with an orthopedic surgery group and have set up an appointment for next Thursday. They will look at his external fixture, The pins in his left hand, his skin grafts and their healing and decide when to schedule the surgery to remove the external fixture and the pins. Once that happens, he should be able to begin more intensive physical and occupational therapy. The nurses and PT personnel get him to stand once or twice a day and put weight on his on his broken left leg. It was difficult for him at first but as he continues to do it gets easier and he gets encouraged. He has had a couple "spa days", where Joe shaves him and washes his hair and that makes him feel really good. He's looking forward to manicure, hopefully someday soon. He still has blood and icky stuff deep under his nails from the accident. And a shower— He is really looking forward to a shower.

## UPDATE ON LOU WALTER

**7/15/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter—Every day Lou seems to be a bit more chipper. He has moments when he is a bit frightened and leery about the future, but soon bounces back to his optimistic self. He is quite limited to bed care right now due to the external fixture in his leg and the pins in his hand. The pins may come out today and the fixture next week. Then the hard work will begin as he starts therapy to become more mobile. He has a stand now for his phone so he is appreciating phone calls--just recently heard from Charlie Silvernale, who regaled him with happy stories. He doesn't seem to be in much pain now, mostly that darn finger, but, gosh, isn't that just terrific! Pain in a finger when you've had two dislocated ribs, broken all ribs, broken a leg and shredded an artery....just say'in! He's directing me from his bed (today IS tax day, y'know) and is pretty good at retaining information. We were laughing about his call from Charlie (Deacon Charlie) Silvernale and Lou wondered about getting the Sacrament of Anointing.....he called it "Extreme Unction" and, needless to say, I corrected him and told him the correct name and that he didn't need to worry about it because he received it at the hospital in Spokane.....he was surprised. Didn't remember it at all (I told him we got the priest in there the evening of the day he arrived)--said he was glad because if he had looked up and seen a Priest anointing him, he would have been scared. As if a roll-over truck accident at 1 am wasn't scary enough! Anyway, he had a good laugh and was very appreciative! God is good.



**7/11/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter—**Lou says Hello!**

**7/10/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter—Lou is doing a bit better every day! His doctors are very optimistic. There is hope that he will get the external fixture in his leg and the pins in his hand removed in 3 to 4 weeks and then he can seriously start PT. He had a phone call today from Joe and Gayle Simpson and was very happy to talk to them. His voice is getting stronger and stronger. If you would like to send him a card or letter, he is at Vibra Specialty Hospital of Portland 10300 N. E. Hancock St., Portland OR 87220. David has ordered a phone stand for him and he's anxious to receive it which will make holding and using his phone much easier. Then he can answer your calls and even call you directly. A big thank you to Jennifer Alford, for going in and cleaning Lou's apartment. We didn't even want to think about food in the refrigerator and on the counter, since he expected to return the day after his accident. blessing Lou's friends are to him.



**7/5/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter—Lou was much more animated today. The docs told him he'd get the fixture out in about three weeks and Lou is excited about that. He asked for a paper calendar because he's having trouble tracking the days...apparently every day seems the same when all you do is sleep & eat in a hospital room.

**6/27/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter—From Lou, Saturday afternoon—I'm moved to Portland, it's good to be with Joey. Thank you for all your thoughts, I feel the love. Visitors here are restricted, but when I'm a little stronger, I am looking forward to getting on the phone with all my friends.

**6/25/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter — 23 hours ago. Lou has been cleared for transfer to a long-term acute care hospital in Portland Oregon. It is very close to Joe. He will be transferred by ambulance with an EMT on board because he is still medically fragile. There is only one designated visitor for Lou's entire stay at the hospital. Once he gets settled, and is feeling better, I'm sure he'll appreciate getting phone calls. When I have a confirmation that he's in the hospital, I'll post an address if you would like to drop him a line. Again, thank you for all the good thoughts and prayers for his recovery. He still has a long way to go.

## UPDATE ON LOU WALTER CONTINUED:

**6/23/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter—Lou has been moved to.....a new room. Oh well, we'll take what we can get. He texted me at 12:30 am with the new "address". Twelve. Thirty. A.M. Later this morning they removed the wound vac from the skin graft and felt encouraged that it is healing so well. He was a bit discouraged today, and let us cheer him up. He sure is touched and encouraged by the cards & letters he receives. Thank you, everyone! No confirmation yet on a transfer to the West Side if the state, but we are praying he improves enough for a move.

**6/21/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter — 20 hours ago. Lou has been told that he may be moved to a rehab facility in Portland or Vancouver as soon as this week. Good news! We'll know more, hopefully, on Monday. Joe is excited for the opportunity to peer at Lou through plate glass twenty minutes from his house instead of having to drive six hours for that privilege! Happy Fathers Day to Lou, Joe and David!

**6/20/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter — Jun 20, 2020. Lou's recuperation is exhausting him and needs lots of rest. His nurse assures us he is doing well. If you are trying to call him, just know that he has difficulty answering and holding the phone. Maybe cards and notes would be the best way to reach him for the time being. I know all ya'll are keeping his spirits up! Thank you!.

**6/18/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter — 13 hours ago. I talked to Lou this morning, but he was extremely fatigued and his voice was very faint. He said he hadn't slept was--apparently he is getting feeling back in his knees and they really hurt. Called his nurse and was told that both doctors had been in and were happy and satisfied with his condition. The nurse promised to keep him awake and busy so he'd sleep tonight! Called the nurse again this evening and was told that they got Lou into a "cardiac" chair today for about an hour. It's a reclines to a flat position, they slide him onto it and then raise him to a sitting position with his right leg straight out in front. Apparently, it tired him out, but is good for him!

**6/17/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter — Lou is feeling up for visitors! He's still bed-bound and looks a little beat-up and his voice is very soft, but he is looking forward to seeing folks. If you have any skills with scissors and a razor.....The hospital allows one visitor per day and you'll need to wear your own mask. They'll take your temperature the entrance, too. Maybe, for now, check with him first on his cell to see how he feels.

**6/16/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter — 16 hours ago. Lou has skin graft surgery this afternoon (I won't post a picture—you can thank me later). They were able to close the wound and only needed a 1.5 hand-sized piece of skin from his thigh. He's been sleeping most of the last two days so they were able to do the surgery without general anesthesia—trying to avoid a ventilator.

**6/14/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter — 4 hours ago. Lou continues to improve. No additional surgeries are scheduled at this point, although Tuesday is still an option for the skin graft. He is eating well and feeding himself with his right hand. He has remained in the ICU because his surgeon wanted to keep a closer eye on him due to his respiratory issues. He slept well Saturday night and didn't use the CPAP at all, which encouraged his doctors. They may move him out of the ICU today if they can guarantee a 3:1 or 2:1 ratio on the floor (instead of the usual 5:1). He has had some occupational therapy including teeth brushing, combing his hair and feeding himself. He's getting better with using his right arm and we are hoping he can manage a iPad soon so we can check on him personally when David has to leave. He voice is still very, very frail and he gets exhausted when he talks too much. This is due to his fragile lungs and his broken ribs.

**6/12/2020:** Journal entry by Terry Walter— Additional surgery may be on the horizon. His broken ribs are really impacting his respiration so they are considering a fixture on his rib cage. They are searching for an ortho specialist and have him off food and drink today in prep. He is in a lot of pain.

## UPDATE ON LOU WALTER CONTINUED:

**6/11/2020:** Update from Terry Walter—Lou was off the CPAP most of the day yesterday. There is a discussion of moving him out of ICU, depending on his respiration and if he can keep his oxygen levels up. I was able to FaceTime with him a bit, and he is very frail and weak but David and I were able to make him laugh. He seems to be in a lot of pain and he looks very beat up, but they have him sitting up a bit which seems to help his breathing. He doesn't remember much of the accident and is having a lot of very vivid dreams which we attribute to the meds. He wanted to watch the news, so David turned on MSNBC for him.

**6/10/2020:** From Lou's son Joe last night—Dad had the mask off all day, they're going to put it back on him for the night. He is talking more and asking for lots of water. The speech therapist came by today and cleared him to start eating food. The physical therapists came by today as well but they can only do upper body stuff because the surgery team does not want any weight bearing on his legs. They know Dave will be there tomorrow.

**6/9/2020:** Lou is a bit more aware today but very fragile. Joe was with him until about noon or so and left to go back to Portland. David arrives from Los Angeles this evening. Lou's CPAP mask was removed this morning to see if he could breathe well on his own. They were going to attempt to feed him solid food as well, to get his strength up. I was able to FaceTime with him briefly this morning and saw how weak he is and he was barely able to speak, but it was good to "lay eyes on him."

**6/8/2020 3:30 PM:** Lou is incrementally improving. The ventilator has been replaced with a CPAP with the hope that his lungs are strong enough to breathe on his own. They are weaning him off fentanyl and on to a PCA that he can use himself to control pain. He is a bit aware and needs to be reminded to push the button for the meds. He has tried to talk, but is still pretty weak and inarticulate. Surgeries on the horizon include the possibility of putting fixtures in for his ribs (if he cannot breathe) and further surgeries on his right leg, including a skin graft. He is making eye contact with Joe and squeezing his hand, so we know he is aware Joe is with him.

**6/8/2020:** Lou is doing well, they took the chest tube, he still has the breathing tube in. It will probably be in for a week or so until the chest pain lightens up and he can breath without the ventilator help. Joe and the family are wanting to start doing some FaceTime calls when he is more lucid and mobile.

A CaringBridge Site was created for Lou. It's a caring social network to help people stay connected with family and friends during a health event. Visit Lou's Site: <https://caringbridge.org/visit/louwalter> Site Name: louwalter

**6/6/2020:** Not a lot of big developments. He is still pretty sedated. They are doing tests every morning to see how he breathes without the ventilator. Once he is strong enough they can take the breathing tube out and lower sedatives. Then they can start working on rehab and mobility.

**6/5/2020:** Lou's son Joe met with doctors yesterday and he seemed optimistic of a good recovery. Joe said the doctors told him there will be a long recovery and rehab. The good news is there are no injuries to his spine or head and Lou should get back to where we was. He goes back in for surgery today to adjust the fixation device on his leg. I ask all of our brothers and sisters to keep Lou and his family in your thoughts and prayers. There is a go fund me page on both our Facebook and Web page.

**6/4/2020:** I wanted to give an update on Lou. Mike Brown and Dave Garegnani visited with Lou's son Joe yesterday late afternoon at Deaconess Hospital and talked to him to see if there was anything we could do to help. At the time Lou was still in surgery. The extent of Lou's injuries are mainly his legs, some broken ribs and a collapsed lung. Luckily no head injuries. After a short visit they offered to put him up in a hotel for the next 2 days and to please keep us updated. Dave received a text later in the evening from Joe telling him that Lou was out of surgery. He is pretty beat up but is stable. They performed extensive surgery on his legs, re-inflated his lung and kept a close eye on him all night. Joe wanted to express his gratitude for all the support from Local 77. I will share more information when we hear from Joe today. Please keep praying for Brother Lou. Be safe all!!!!

**6/3/2020:** This morning, we learned that Brother and past Business Manager/Financial Secretary Lou Walter was involved in a serious auto accident in Spokane. Lou is currently at Deaconess Hospital in Spokane and in critical condition. We ask all to send their thoughts and prayers to Brother Walter and his family. Due to COVID-19 visitors other than immediate family are not allowed. We will keep you updated as we receive them.