

2A(F) (J&F: Thursday, November 26, 1987)

Gall stones removed

Headlee is reported in fair condition

Heart transplant recipient Richard Headlee, president of Farmington Hills-based Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America, was listed in fair condition Tuesday after a 3 1/2-hour gall bladder operation Saturday.

The 57-year-old Farmington Hills resident remains in Latter-Day Saints Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Headlee, who received a new heart Oct. 8 as a patient in the Utah Cardiac Heart Transplant Program, "had several stones removed," said his wife, Mary.

"The gall bladder operation was routine and not related in any way to Mr. Headlee's earlier heart problem, nor was the gall bladder operation a complication of the heart transplant operation. Mr. Headlee will likely be out of the hospital by the end of the week," said Tim Madden, LDS spokesman.

In addition to his political and civic activities, the former Republican gubernatorial candidate is a Michigan leader of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (the Mormons).

The Headlees have taken up temporary residence in a Salt Lake City apartment a block from LDS Hospital to facilitate his outpatient recovery from the heart transplant operation.

Headlee remains president and chief executive officer of Alexander Hamilton Life. He has installed a functional communications headquarters between his apartment and the Alexander Hamilton Life headquarters in Farmington Hills.

Headlee is expected to return to his Farmington Hills office in early February.

Man asks to be taken off ventilator

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Breck. "If the judge says no, we can appeal that," McCleary said.

WHILE TWO bills in the state Senate and House could clarify the right to die issue in Michigan, it's doubtful action will be taken before Culham's case is decided.

In his petition, Culham asks that "a qualified medical professional" remove him from the ventilator, remove feeding tubes and provide pain-relieving drugs to ease suffering.

"... it is his desire not to have his life prolonged by any artificial, extraordinary or heroic measures," according to the petition.

Attorney McCleary said he believes the petition is the first of its kind in Michigan. Without Michigan case law to base the Culham case on, McCleary said he is relying on other states' case law, such as the well-known New Jersey cases involving Karen Anne Quinlan. She died in June 1985 after being off life support for nine years. The New Jersey Supreme Court granted her parents' request that she be removed from the life-sustaining systems.

When Culham, who is in a nursing home, gave his wife, Joan, power of attorney in 1985, he said: "It is my intention that should a time arise which there is no reasonable expectation of my recovery, that I be allowed to die and not be kept alive by medications, artificial means or heroic measures."

Myotrophic lateral sclerosis is a disease that attacks the nerve cells that control muscle movement. Culham's body control is limited and he is losing his sight. But, McCleary said, "Mr. Culham is completely competent."

MICHIGAN IS not among the 38 states that have some type of laws regarding patients' right to die. Commonly called patient rights or living wills, the legislation in other states has provided the means of dealing with the rights of terminally ill patients to refuse artificial life support systems.

The two bills in the Michigan Legislature are sitting in committees. A "living will" bill proposed by state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, would provide patients an opportunity to make a legal declaration of their desires.

"A lot of doctors and paramedics have regulations to follow," said Faxon staff member Dan Dougherty about current procedures. "The medical field is in the middle. The living will would not hold them liable (for disconnecting patients from life-sustaining apparatus)."

On another front, a bill scheduled to go to the full House in early December would authorize living wills to include self-determination of health care decisions.

Unlike Faxon's bill, the House bill requires only one attending physician to determine that a patient's death is imminent. Two attending physicians are required under Faxon's bill, Dougherty said.

School marks 25th birthday

Flanders Elementary began the 1967-68 school year with a celebration of the Farmington school's 25th anniversary, which culminated the week of Oct. 26.

All students and staff participated in the celebration, which included the traditional birthday cake and refreshments, and a special flower bulb-planting by each of the elementary students all around the school grounds.

The bulbs were provided by the school's Parent/Teacher Association.

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