

A message from Frank V. Sacco, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer

Good day,

A twist of fate, a turn of the wheel and our lives can change in an instant. Helping people put their bodies and their lives back together can be our greatest challenge and our greatest reward. This young man's Memorial Experience was both lifesaving and transforming.

Thank you,



Dear Mr. Sacco,

We go through things all the time to help us appreciate what we don't have or the things we take for granted. Some are worse than others, but we need them to keep our vigor and balance in life.

A year ago, I went through my experience. Unfortunately, it was a horrific car accident that made my life better. I hit a utility pole, forcing my car to wrap around it. I had never broken any bones before the accident; I broke everything because of it – my legs, arms, neck and spinal cord, and my pelvic bone was also fractured. I was airlifted to a hospital in Orlando where I was in a coma.

Thanks to God, I don't remember the accident or the first several weeks in the hospital, but I believe the accident and surgeries made me a better person. When I was in ICU in Orlando, the doctors said I was going to be a vegetable for the rest of my life and asked my parents to pull the plug. I don't hold a grudge for this. It's science, and with all the injuries I had, a lot of people wouldn't be able to walk again, but God was with me.

Nearly three months later, I was transferred to Memorial Regional Hospital South for rehabilitation and the recovery started there. Without a shadow of doubt, being transferred there was an excellent decision by my family.

Getting hired to work there must be tough because every employee I came in contact with was amazing, for lack of a better word. They were uplifting, helpful, encouraging and had the biggest hearts of anyone I have ever met. The laughter they blessed me with was also great medication. The only thing that told me I was in the hospital was the shots. They treated me with so much care and love that I felt like I was with family. Thanks to them, I noticed new things to appreciate every day.

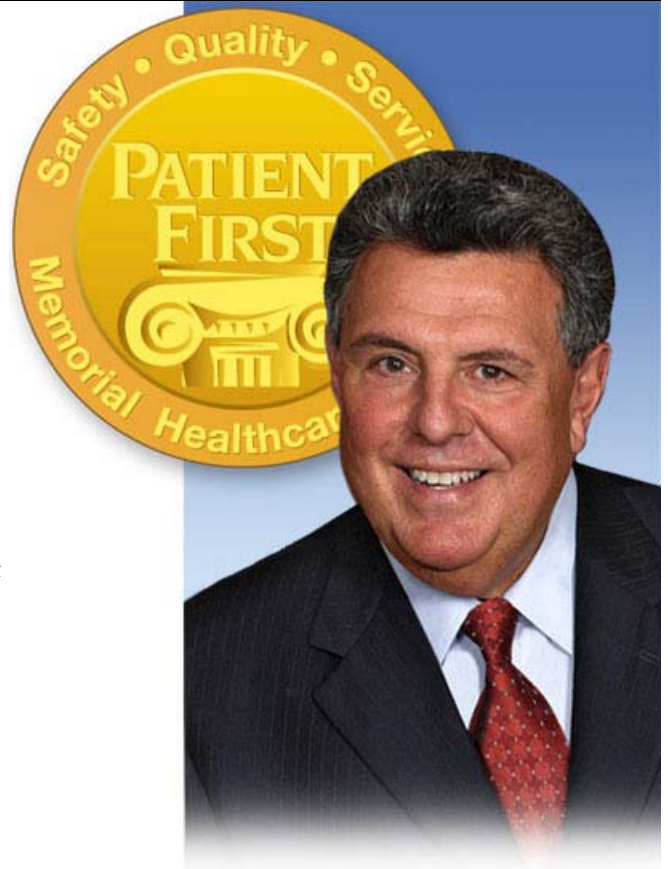
My first steps came almost four months after the accident. I joke that I remember my first steps the way parents remember their children's.

The nurses, doctors and therapists at Memorial Regional Hospital South have even inspired me to become a speech therapist, and if I could be as helpful as they were to me that in itself will be rewarding.

Thank you so much for EVERYTHING!

Sincerely,

Samir



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