

March 3, 2014

Hillside Candy
35 Hillside Avenue
Hillside, NJ 07202

Re: *Go Lightly Sugar Free Candy*

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Marion and I live in Connecticut and volunteer at the Rhode Island Veterans Home in Bristol, RI. Many of the veterans can't remember my name so they call me the Candy Lady.

I am always looking for sugar free candy as many of the veterans are diabetics. Several weeks back I purchase Go Lightly Candy for the first time. When I returned to the VA Home the following week, many of the men commented that it was the best sugar free can I had ever bought for them and the best part it did not have that real sickening aftertaste that some of the candy I bought had. They remembered reading that it was "MADE IN AMERICA" and that they appreciated.

I let them know I would be happy to purchase more. For several weeks I went to all the pharmacies, supermarkets and outlet stores where I usually pick up the candy. Unfortunately I could not remember the name on the bag but remembered the brightly colored candy wrappers and knew I would recognize it if I saw it. Each week thereafter they asked if I had remembered where I had purchased the candy. I told them no but I would not give up until I found it. They said, "Could you search or it on the internet." I told them I did but without a picture it was not much use.

Then last week I was cleaning out a large bag that I carry with me to bring items they ask me to pick up. In the bottom was one empty bag of Go Lightly Candy. I immediately went to your web site and found the phone number of Hillside Candy. It was my lucky day as I was transferred to Josephine Rivera. Ms. Rivera was extremely accommodating and professional. She offered to do some research on distributors in CT and RI and find out where

I might purchase the Go Lightly candy. She was not only helpful but efficient and the very next day I received a list of distributors. I have not witnessed that kind of service in a very long time. I thought you would like to know that her professional manner represents your company well.

As if that wasn't enough, she mentioned that her Dad, Husband and Son were veterans. She said that she would personally like to donate some sugarless candy for the veterans. The next day the candy arrived. I could not believe a total stranger was so generous. Friday, I distributed the candy much to the veterans delight. They were so happy to have some great candy and were very moved to know that a total stranger cared enough to do something special for them.

So thank you for a great product and please thank Ms. Rivera for her thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marion Krepcio". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Marion Krepcio

"How beautiful a day can be when kindness touches it."

George Alliston

March 3, 2014

Dear Josephine,

I was very excited to visit the Veterans Home on Friday with my bag full of candy and felt joyous to share the story of how the candy was a gift from a special lady. I arrived very early at the home so most men and women had not come down to the lobby. I found four veterans in the Freedom Café and proceeded to tell them about my conversation with you. I told them that your Dad, Husband and Son were veterans and you wanted to do something for them. I told them how a day after we spoke, two large boxes of candy arrived at my home. I asked them to wait for me while I went to get my Dad. They patiently sat waiting for me and when I returned I overheard Carmine telling the story to the other veterans who wandered into the café. As he spoke, I realized that more important than the candy was the story of your kindness and caring. Four of the men in the enclosed pictures have no family so your story had extra meaning to them because they realized that total stranger cared. Your story touched all of them and for that I am grateful.

Carmine asked if I had brought along a thank you card for them to sign. I said no I had not thought of it because I was going to write a thank you. He said well go into the Freedom café and get one so we can sign it... Since the candy was for us, Josephine needs to know that we personally appreciate her thoughtfulness. Yes Sir, I responded! Then a blind veteran came to the café and Carmine told him the story of the candy and asked if he would like to sign the card. Carmine gently leads his hand to a clear spot on the card and waited patiently for him to sign.

When I took a few pictures, they asked if I could provide them with a copy to give to the activity director so they could publish the story in the next Vet Gazette. The gazette is a by-monthly publication written by the veterans. It just so happens that the four men in the café that morning are all diabetic and to receive a tasty treat that was safe for them to eat, lifted their spirits.

My Dad and I then proceed to go to a few units and share the candy with some other veterans. While I was pushing my Dad he held the candy and after a few deliveries he said, "Did she send any candy for me." I said she most certainly did and I unwrapped one and placed it in his mouth. "Delicious! What did I do to deserve it? You are a Veteran I responded. Does she know me? No, but you served our country and that was enough for her. Did she send me more than one? Yes, I said. Well... then how can I thank her if she is a stranger? I have a card for her, would you like to sign it. I could try! That is all you have to do, I responded.

When I took my Dad back to his unit, I met John, a new resident and told him the story. I asked him if he would like to sign the card and he asked me if it would be OK if he signed his nickname, Beaver. I told him that was fine and he asked to send along his thanks. Then we went into the dinner room and we happened to see Tom, who is 102 years old. He loves chocolate so I gave him a bag and asked if he would like to sign the card. He said, "Would you mind if I said thank you." I told him that would be very nice and I am sure Josephine would appreciate it. Meanwhile, the nurses on the wing wanted to know what I was doing so I repeated the story and proceeded to give them a few bags to hand out to the diabetic men in the unit. It was not long before I saw some grateful smiles. The nurses told me that candy is a nice distraction when some of the men become irritable.

Finally, when I got ready to leave I stopped by the Lobby and saw my 100 year old friend Manny who is extremely hard of hearing. For the past three years I bring him candy each week. He is so grateful that and in turn he teaches me some Portuguese words. I had to raise my voice very loud when I was telling him the story. After telling him that I had some new candy for him to try and it was sugarless candy. I told him that I was aware that he still had all of his own teeth so the sugarless candy was better for him. He thanked me in Portuguese and I proceeded to say, "Think Nothing of It" one of the phrases he taught me.

There was a family sitting nearby and obviously they had overheard the story because I had to raise my voice so loud. I offered a bag to their Husband/Dad who was a new resident. He was delighted as he opened the bag and chose butterscotch, which was his favorite. The veteran's wife told me it was a hard decision to place her husband in the VA Home but when she heard

the story of a complete stranger she would leave that day, feeling a little better, knowing that the kindness of a total stranger made a difference.

Upon arriving home, I reflected on the day and realized that in the morning I had given each of the four men two bags of candy for the picture. All four were quick to pass on the second bag to other veterans who were walking by. Volunteering with such thoughtful men and women is good for my soul!

I have shared your story with many of my family and friends and they too all agreed that hearing about your kindness and generosity was an uplifting story at a time when our county is so dysfunctional.

I have enclosed one of my favorite pictures for you with the hope that each time you look at it, you smile knowing how much your kindness and generosity has touched so many veterans. Your generosity will keep on giving for many weeks to come.

Fondly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marion".

Marion Krepcio