

Annabel - A Life Lived With No Regrets

A TRIBUTE TO MY MOTHER-IN-LAW BY DAVE ANDERSON

Her breathing was so shallow...
Eyes staring off into tomorrow...
Beside her sat the daughter she birthed...
No one cared more, tried harder, or had given as much to keep
her mother alive...as this one.

No one had cared more, tried harder, or given as much to help
the mother she loved, find her wings and make the flight to worlds unknown.

And the mother's son...ahh...
She had to be so proud as he stood there,
Holding her frail, cool hand, telling her words of
comfort, joy, and sharing happy memories.

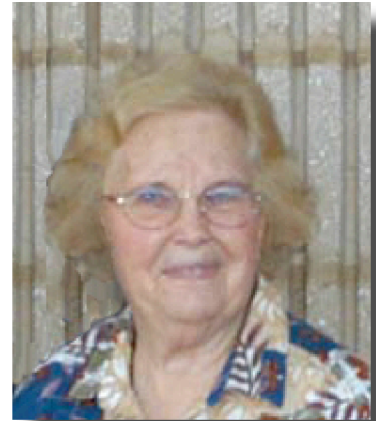
Her two children by her side, when she needed them most.
The vigil had been intense...
The flight for life...health...and healing --- passionate
Every resource in heaven and on earth had been exhausted...
But her body was just worn out
Too much...too fast...too slow to recover

The doctor's words had been profound...warm...caring...but direct...
"There is nothing more we can do
We've tried everything
It's time to stop the testing...the jabbing...the prodding...the suffering.
It's time to put it in the Lord's hands.
If you were my mother, that's what I'd do."

It's what I'd want someone to do for me.
And so turned another page in the life of my mother-in-law,
Annabel Kleppinger.

Her acceptance of the pronouncement was calm...steady...calculated...even stoic.
But that had always been her response in times of suffering and crisis.
It was simply, "We'll leave it in God's hands."

And so we, her loved ones, stood and watched...we could only do
that...stand and watch and care...and be there.
It was our job...our privilege...our responsibility as we learned
lessons of faith, and love, and suffering, and sharing and caring...
Lessons of living a life of no regrets, leaving it in God's hands.



Annabel



Dave Anderson

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Sharing memories with your kids one brief story at a time.