**14586, Jeri Seidel**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to speak to you today about a classmate and very special friend of mine, Sheri Kelly Stepien. We graduated together in 1976 and today we are here to honor her and remember her with a plaque. The plaque will be dedicated to the Town of Pembine to be hung in the Pembine Town Hall.

Sheri went to school in Pembine, moved away for a few years, then returned to Pembine and graduated with the Pembine Class of 1976. After high school, she worked with many town board members and was a great organizer. She ran all of the elections making sure equipment and volunteers were in place. She was the town clerk and treasurer for 23 years. She worked with the property tax rolls and was the assessor. She approved building permits, managed the refuse collection services, and approved liquor licenses. One of her last events was organizing the Pembine Centennial celebration.

She also fought a 13 year battle with breast cancer. She was in remission for 10 years, then she fought for about 2.5 years when she lost her life. Even though she was going through treatments and didn't feel well, she persevered. She was always a leader for our class. We haven't missed one class reunion since we graduated thanks to her dedication. She took charge with the help of others to make it happen. Sheri had a great love for her country and she was very patriotic.

There are so many adjectives that I could use to describe Sheri. She was smart, she had a great sense of humor and a wonderful smile. She was a good friend and a talented organizer. I moved away from Pembine, but on those occasions that I would come back to visit from Arizona she planned lunches for us together at the Pembine Drive-In. It felt like we had never been apart when we would meet up. That is the mark of a true friend.

She was born, grew up and stayed in her small town that she loved. But, in the midst of her fun loving nature Sheri was very courageous. She was a strong fighter. She did all she could to live her life the way she wanted to live it, despite the long term battle with cancer. After her long battle Sheri passed away from cancer on June 23, 2015.

The 23rd Psalm reads:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; he leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me; thy rod and they staff they comfort me. Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anoint my head with oil, my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Sheri has lived her life on this earth and walked her path through the valley of the shadow of death. She is now blessed to dwell in the house of the Lord forever. But, just as Paul spoke of in 2 Corinthians 5:8 since she is no longer present in the body, she is present with the Lord and she is at peace.

Thank you