EULOGY

WRITTEN FOR

LISA MANKINS

Hello everyone. Today we mourn the death but celebrate the life of my wonderful grandmother, Ruth Murtha. Although she lived a long and meaningful time here on earth, I know we are all heartbroken that she is gone. My Grandma Ruth… friend, wife, mother, grand- **AND GREAT** grandmother, sister, neighbor, aunt, **dancing partner**… (**Keep the descriptions that apply**) … you name it, she was there for each person in her life and her mission was always to live her own life to the fullest. As a tribute to her indelible impact on all of us, I want to say a few words to acknowledge the woman that meant so much to me.

There is an expression that teaches us, “I am part of all that I have met.” My grandmother was, is and always will be a big part of my heart and soul. While some kids growing up might have taken the doting attention of a grandparent for granted, I knew, even at a very young age, that my Grandma was special. She would watch us in the mornings when we were little and made THE. BEST. CINNAMON TOAST. What a treat that was! She cared about who we were, how we would grow up, and what we might become. I will never forget her encouragement as she steadfastly followed my basketball career. Her devotion to her family is legendary. Her personal strength has always been an inspiration.

Throughout her entire existence she remained true to her own personal mission and that was to demonstrate her appreciation for, love of and devotion to her family. She proved her strength and resilinece time and time again as she grew up during the Great Depression, raised her young family during war time, held that family together while her husband was a soldier serving in World War II, and if THAT wasn’t enough of a test of strength, she also had to hold that young family together while my grandfather was captured and held as a prisoner of war. She was consistent throughout her life and her strength served her well up until the very end. With every phase of her life she faced the good times and the challenges with courage, consideration, faith, and absolute commitment to all of those she held so dear.

The love and respect we all feel for my Grandma Ruth is universal and inspired by a woman who put each one of us first. She was profoundly aware of and dedicated to the importance of family and she showed her love for each one of us with every gesture. I’m sure that every one of us has a story about how this woman inspired them and all of us have a common bond… we have more enriched lives thanks to her devotion to us.

Someone once said, “You can kiss family and friends good-bye and put miles between you, but at the same time you carry them with you in your heart, your mind, your stomach, because you do not just live in a world but a world lives in you.” Distance didn’t hamper her devotion… Just ask my Grandpa…. and neither will her passing lessen her influence on our lives.

Ruth Murtha will be alive in our hearts and our minds (**If you** **want to make a sweet little joke you can say)** and especially in our… or **MY** stomach. I know that every time I smell cinnamon or have the opportunity to have some cinnamon toast, that will be Grandma Ruth’s way of sending her love and a little wink. And I have a feeling that as a tribute to this wonderful woman, I will express my love for my family and friends with some of the same sweetness that she so freely shared.

Grandma Ruth will live on in each one of us and we will demonstrate her timeless impact as we live our lives with respect, strength, compassion and a genuine love and appreciation of one another. Thank you.