**EULOGY**

**WRITTEN FOR**

**JUNE SEAY**

Hello everyone, I am June Seay, and I would like to share a few thoughts about Catherine Draughn. Those of us that were privileged to know her got to experience the best of what it means to be a truly **GOOD** person. She was a kind, caring, quick-witted woman, one with a no-nonsense attitude, but most of all, she was fiercely devoted to her family. She filled her life with prayer and praise and there was a very special place in her heart for all of her family members and friends who served, and still serve, our country with their military service. Catherine Draughn may not have personally been in the military. Technically, she never wore “the uniform.” But that never stopped her from freely using the most powerful and important weapon she could muster, and that was prayer and love.

It’s been said that “Behind every strong, devoted soldier, there is an even stronger family who stands with them, supports them, and loves them with all their heart.” I don’t know who actually said that quote, but it’s clear to me that the author knew Mrs. Draughn and experienced the power of her support!!! It’s also been said that “Happiness is knowing that you are loved.” It is a testament to the power of this woman’s dedication and devotion that, even across miles and oceans, separated by continents, her intentions and the strength of her prayer were felt far and wide. It made such a difference to those who looked to her for strength.

It’s true that the military “knows no seasons.” Soldiers don’t get a break if the weather is bad…. Far from it. Mrs. Draughn’s dedication also knew no seasons and her devotion to her “people” never wavered… never faltered… and was unconditional. General Norman Schwarzkopf guided his troops by sharing, “The truth is that you always know the right thing to do. The tough part is doing it.” Those who knew Catherine. Draughn had a “North Star” to guide and watch over them.

I, personally, will never forget the day I had the privilege to meet that special, fierce, mighty woman. I met Mother Catherine initially in 1992 during one of (**explain who Shirley is**) Mrs. Draughn’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Shirley’s promotions. I then remember when she came to Germany a few years after that to visit Shirley again. That’s when she introduced me to cheese biscuits and they were **good**. ([If you want to make a little joke, you can say)](http://www.apple.com), Meeting Mrs. Draughn was, of course, a special moment, but **OH!!! Those biscuits!**!! Take about **secret weapons**!!! (**Wait for the laugh)**. I remember that I could not get the taste of those biscuits out of my mouth and I knew I had to take action….. One day, I went to Shirley’s apartment around lunchtime. I’m sure Shirley and her mother were wondering why I was there, and truthfully, I was on a little bit of a “covert mission….” I tried to play it cool, and clearly Shirley’s “curiosity radar” was in full function. **Finally**, she asked if I wanted something to eat. I told Mother Catherine how “memorable” her baking was to me, and **BOY**!!, would I love some biscuits. She confessed that particular day that she did not have time to make them from scratch. Undeterred, fiercely loyal, and ready at all times to support a soldier, she quickly devised a “Plan B” and asked me if canned biscuits would be okay. Truthfully, and I say this with a good deal of warmth and a fair amount of melted butter coursing through my brain at the thought of this almost thirty year old memory, **ANYTHING** was okay as long as Mother Catherine made it!!!!

It is a testimony and tribute to a life well lived, that today we share such affectionate memories of a woman who showed her love and pride in so many countless, humble, devoted ways. While the Bible provides strength and solace for those who serve…. “For I know the plans I have for you… plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future,” Mother Catherine’s dedication gave us strength and **sustenance**…. Literally. I will never forget her generosity that truly warmed from within. She even went to the extent of making my favorite dish for me and my family before I deployed to Iraq. She didn’t have to. She was a busy, vital woman whose own plate was more than full. Her daughter, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, son-in-law, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, nephew, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, brother, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and grandson, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, all served in the military. No matter the relationship…. Family, friend, or neighbor, she always showed outstanding love and unwavering support for each of them and made sure that their friends became extended family members. She might have had a quick wit, but her greatest responses were for loved those who served our country. We will miss her tremendous contribution to our lives but I do believe she taught us well, and for that, I am so thankful. Thank you all!