COMMENTS ABOUT KERRY

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

COMMENT ON PRIOR CELEBRATION REMARKS, ETC.

I HAVE BEEN THE MOST BLESSED INDIVIDUAL TO HAVE BEEN THE HUSBAND, BEST FRIEND AND COMPANION OF KERRY. WE WERE MARRIED ON SEPTEMBER 23, 1995 IN THE BACKYARD OF OUR HOME IN CHINO HILLS. THAT BEGAN OUR WONDERFUL JOURNEY OF SUCH A SPECIAL MUTUAL LOVE AND MY PERSONAL GROWTH WHERE KERRY HELPED ME BECOME A BETTER PERSON. GOD HAD BROUGHT US TOGETHER…. AND I THINK HE TOLD HER THIS MIGHT BE A TOUGH JOB, BUT THAT I WOULD LOVE HER AS NO OTHER.

NO ONE HAS HAD SUCH A PROFOUND IMPACT ON MY LIFE. I HAD KNOWN KERRY FOR SOME TIME THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES AND EVEN WORKED WITH HER FATHER RAY. CIRCUMSTANCES, OR SOME MIGHT SAY FATE, BROUGHT US TOGETHER TO SHARE THIS SPACE IN TIME AS TRUE COMPANIONS. HOW LUCKY I WAS.

**SOME SPECIFIC COMMENTS ABOUT KERRY THAT NEED TO BE EMBELLESHED AND INCLUDED:**

* Kerry was such a genuine, very caring, individual whose love and influence was unconditionally shared throughout her extended family. She was always focused on what we could do to bring everyone together to celebrate special occasions like birthdays, graduations, and special recognition events for our children and grandchildren. Kerry placed tremendous importance around traditions with the family like Christmas (Eve and Day), other holidays, and a special one for all of us, Super Bowl…or the annual chili cook-off as we all refer to super bowl Sunday in our family. In many ways, Kerry always found an opportunity for gatherings just because it felt good to do something with the family.
* She was very approachable when there were times of need or when advice and counsel were needed by family members and friends alike. People knew Kerry had the special gift to talk through issues and help come to a calming conclusion. There was never anyone I knew who was more intuitive or had better common sense than she did. I think it placed a burden on her at times but you could never tell that by watching or seeing her in everyday life
* She loved to travel. We had many journeys to the Islands as just a couple with memories that we cherished so deeply. With our family members on different occasions. In 2010 after she finished her chemo treatment we spent about 10 days on the Big Island. We walked, talked and made the rounds and were as close as we had ever been. She mentioned how it would be great to bring the entire family to Hawaii in the following year. We both lit up on how that would be a wonderful gathering. In May of 2011 we did just that; brought all of our family to Maui for a week. From my 90 year old Mom and her Mom to our youngest GC Reid and actually one in the oven. Maeve Annalise. It was indeed a “Wowie in Maui” for us all. And so, so timely. This trip will be forever cherished by all of us.
* There were other traveling adventures and the memories I have to cherish forever were abundant. We went to Ireland and Scotland with some of our family, Kerry and I spent 10 days in North Carolina at the Pinehurst facility and oh yea I only played golf 3 times. It was us and the lightning and rain sitting on the porch of an old southern mansion. We spent a week with family in San Diego (on more than one occasion), spent a week in New York with our granddaughter Devyn that was tied in to a work trip for Kerry, enjoyed a motorhome trip up the coast to San Louis Obispo and Pismo Beach with our kids and grandkids, and many, many more adventures around our home in every amusement park with every family member. The local time with family was what she was all about.
* I loved to have the opportunity to watch her work at SCE. That did not happen a great deal but the few times it did give me incredible insight into this magnificent woman whom I was so lucky to share space with in this life. She always told me Billy I am really an introvert. And she was. But when you watched her conduct a training session, speak to employee groups or manage a difficult situation her warmth, gift of articulation, and facilitation were unmatched in effectiveness.
* We had our moments of disagreement and Lord knows we did not share tastes in almost anything. From remodeling the house, buying accessories for the finished remodel, plants in the back yard, pictures, etc. There was always spirited discussion around those items. Being a person who is not very opinionated I could never figure out why. We both were strong in that area but we always found common ground. Again her intuitiveness and common sense always left me in the wake. Even shopping in the grocery store. It might sound like we did a lot of things together. Yes we did and we enjoyed the companionship and cherished the time together. In times we talked about whether we were invading each other’s space too much. Our conclusion was there was not another way we wanted it. Some funny things developed over time and as we reached decisions on things. She wanted to buy some large flip flops to put above our new bathtub. I thought there were many better choices and we debated. The flip flops look great up there today. We made major remodel changes around our home over a few year period. Her stamp is all over it. Story of the Island in the kitchen. Wooden floors, buying canned goods.
* When Kerry got sick and was diagnosed with cancer it was a traumatic time. We certainly did not expect that. It started another journey for us. Kerry was so strong and courageous and never put forth a “woe is me” attitude. She faced all the adversity in the ways she had always walked through life. Strength, commitment, spiritual faith, consideration for others, family considerations, and grace. She wondered why this had to be occurring with her but was steadfast in working through what was needed. Again she gave me strength I prayed hard that I could find the words and the actions that might help bring comfort to her.
* I had my own health issues to deal with in April 2010 as well. Even though she was working through her own recovery after her initial treatments she was always there for me. We spoke often about what a pair we were. I also knew how blessed and fortunate I was to have this wonderful companion in my life.
* She was also very concerned about others who were not as fortunate as we were. There was an on- going trail of contributions she would make to organizations like World Vision, Shoes that fit, Marine Corps. Semper Fi injured Marine fund, Inland Humane Society, Foundation for Kids only to name a few. At Christmas time the most cherished gifts our grandchildren would receive were contribution made in their name to World Vision; gifts like sports equipment, medical supplies, food and fresh water…all for children who did not live the lives our grandchildren live. It was important to Kerry that our family was raised with the understanding and compassion for those less fortunate that we are.
  + It was Kerry’s idea several years ago that we would not exchange gifts among the adults at Christmas time. Instead we would have a drawing in the current year for the next Christmas and whoever won the drawing would select a charity and the adults would all contribute a set amount to that organization. Of course the winner had to make a presentation to the rest about why they selected that particular charity. It is an on- going tradition and one that will not change.
* Some words that come to my mind that describe this beautiful woman are:

(I need a couple of sentences that incorporate these or some of them)

* + Courage
  + Caring
  + Matriarch
  + Christ-like
  + Resilient
  + Companion
  + Consultant
  + Friend
  + Grace
  + Genuine
  + Compassionate
  + Open-minded
  + One-of-a kind, and
  + Love
* I believe that the love Kerry and I shared is one that is not often found. We enjoyed each other, laughed with one another, understood, respected, and loved one another for who we are; we were true companions and I am forever grateful for her in my life.
* Comment on the family and it role in the service preparation
* Finish
* “I give you this one thought to keep”
  + I give you this one thought to keep
  + I am with you still I do not sleep
  + I am a thousand winds that blow
  + I am the diamond glints on snow
  + I am the sunlight on ripened grain
  + I am the gentle autumn rain
  + When you awaken in the mornings hush
  + I am the swift uplifting rush f quiet birds in circled flight
  + I am the soft stars that shine at night
  + So not think of me as gone I am with you still
  + In each new dawn