

Dearest Sully,

Sunday, August 25, 2013

First and foremost I want to thank you for your service to this great nation. I Salute you for your unwavering commitment and sacrifice; it was evident throughout your entire life. Thank you.

You will be missed greatly by me. You ARE missed greatly by me. I have tears running down my face as I am writing this final letter to you. I received so many letters and cards from you, thank you for always treating me like family. Even after the divorce from John, you always made me feel welcome in your heart which you showed with outward signs. The letters always kept coming, no matter where I was living. You would ask for an updated address and write to me. You asked me to send you photos. You always welcomed my phone calls. Thank you.

You had such a sense of humor and ready wit. I am recalling your stack of jokes and cartoons you had me go through the last time I visited you. Now I wish I had taken a few more home. You gave me a very small teddy bear with a patriotic ribbon around his neck and a mini copper pot. Who knows where you got them, or why, but I am the lucky one to have them sitting on my shelves now. I just recently put the mini flashlight you gave me in my car. I've decided I need to USE it not just leave it sitting in a basket. Thank you.

When Krista and I came to visit, you were all dressed up; wearing a tie and you took us to the country club for lunch; you introduced us around and "showed us off." What a special memory now. We walked around your house and you pointed out things to us, described where you had gotten something, talked about pictures on your wall. I brought home those President bookends that Philip and LeeAnne have on their book shelves now; perfect place for them. You sent me home with a couple of Dee's hats. I have them both here in my apartment. Perhaps I'll wear one to your graveside service; that would be fitting, wouldn't it? We also took a few pictures of the three of us. I wish now we had taken about 50 pictures. You sent us on our way with gas money and a goodie bag. Oh, and you pinched my butt that day, do you remember? Of course you do. That was a really great visit. Thank you.

I saw you next when Levi and I visited. You didn't take us out for lunch; you served us at home. I think it was a deli chicken and potato salad meal. You didn't sit down and eat with us though because I think you'd had breakfast late. I remember you talking, talking, talking. I think you liked very much having company. I know Levi and I certainly enjoyed spending the time with you. You sent us on our way with gas money and a goodie bag; one of your trademarks. Thank you.

I regret that I didn't get over to see you again; I thought we had more time. I had gotten good reports and even that you would be coming to Lewiston to live. I was SOOO excited at that news. I immediately decided that I would come down every Tuesday after work to visit you in the VA home and then go dancing. I had visions of being able to spend time with you; listening to stories, sharing a little about my life with you. I didn't know if you would be able to go out and about, but just the thought of getting to see you regularly blessed my heart. But alas, that wasn't to be.

I am currently attempting to get through reading your obituary at the LMT online. I keep having to stop to wipe away my tears so I can see the words. You lived such a full life. You contributed to your world in so many ways. Why then, does it seem like we had you for too short a time??? Sometimes there are certain special people that should just live forever; I guess to me, you are one of those special people.

I could go on and on about what a wonderful man you are. Talk about inspiring and non-judgmental. God may just have broken the mold after He made you.

I miss you and I will continue to miss you. You were loved by many people throughout your lifetime. And one of them is me.

Sincerely and from the bottom of my heart until I see you again,

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Sheleen Meador  
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*As always  
Sheleen*

