

Mike Kennedy re: death of his mother

Thank you for the kind words, Dave. We are still shell-shocked at the speed and viciousness of this kind of cancer. We went from 6 months expectancy to 3 months to 10 days. Social media has been a pretty humbling and wonderful tool because so many people from my Mom's past and present have weighed in and contacted us. It's been overwhelming. But we are together in their retirement community in Florida with our siblings, cousins, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and lots of their friends. I think it was a character in Steel Magnolias who said something about the best emotion being "laughter through tears". I understand that so much better now. Appreciate all the good thoughts.

She would have been 75 in December had she lived. She and my Dad would have celebrated their 50th anniversary in September. They were planning a trip to Ireland together.

My mom couldn't go to college at the traditional time so after she raised her three sons and got us all through college, she went back to earn her Associates Degree at the community college she worked at in New York. Then she earned her Bachelors Degree at age 60 at the University of Miami when she worked there full time. This was someone who accomplished her goals no matter how long it took and regardless of the obstacles.

Maybe the simplest but best obit I can offer is that she led a good and decent life. She wasn't perfect but when the time came for every family or personal crisis, trouble, or drama, she rose to the occasion and stood by her family and friends without judgment when it was needed most. My Dad never expected to be the one left behind. So he's going to work his way through a new reality that he didn't expect.

But the two of them together made a great life which includes another generation to carry on their legacy. Their seven grandkids are ready to get Grandpa involved in their soccer, baseball, and crayons this summer if we can get him and keep him in Idaho for a little while.

Hug your family. At the end of the day they are hopefully the ones in the hospital holding your hands when you're called home.