

Roslev 5, 5750

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Eileen (Buddy) DAVIS?

on yellow  
disc stored under  
Davis fld. gal.

So often we say ~~that~~ things w/o giving them much thought.

we see a human being in pain. we see a person wracked w/ disease,  
we see a family trying to cope with the suffering; & we ~~say~~ <sup>say of death</sup> "it's a  
blessing", or, "God took her out of her misery".

~ Our mind we paint a picture of pain we can't imagine, ~~we understand~~  
by ~~not suffering~~ <sup>And</sup> we, having never been ~~hurt~~ <sup>Touched</sup> by such  
suffering, <sup>who</sup> having never been tested; see death as a way out, an  
escape.

For Buddy + Don + Jeffry, <sup>all who loved her</sup> Eileen's death is not an escape, not  
a blessing, not a release. It is like <sup>the</sup> ~~any~~ death of <sup>any</sup> loved one,  
a time of sorrow, a ~~tearful~~ <sup>tearful</sup> parting. Despite the difficulty the family  
endured during these past years, there is nothing each wouldn't do  
to be able to touch her one last time, to say one final goodbye  
to watch her breathe one more hour

it is also neither honest nor just to use the <sup>cliche</sup> "she will  
be remembered for how she lived before being stricken w/ disease".

How she coped w/ her illness, how those who loved her reacted to  
it, How she was able to inspire others; was all part of

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who Eileen was

This wonderful woman, who was so able to give to others, inspired others to give to her. For 11 years Buddy took care of her every need. Loving her, staying w/ her, bringing her out 7 days a week to dinners. Taking her each year to Hawaii for ~~sun~~ sun & warmth. He never despaired, he counted each day he was able to give to her as a blessing.

Jess said it best "I pray," he said "I'm not tested in life like dad & mom were," but in I am, I pray I can measure up to even one percent of the example shown by my parents.

She was a woman of extreme courage. She knew about her disease, but she didn't whimper or moan or weep. She faced it & did the best she could.

It was this extraordinary quality of courage that allowed her to survive

~~a great one~~ life's greatest tragedy; the death of a child. Little

David was born w/ Tay Sachs disease & died at the age of 3. Eileen

& Buddy were devastated. But they had a lot of love to share; & ~~so~~ so

~~they chose adoption~~ & they adopted 2 infants Ronnie & Jeffrey.

Ronnie sees that decision as an act of courage - of getting

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back on the horse after being thrown, or being able to get past the pain + go on w/ the job of living + giving.

perhaps because of the early tragic loss, she was an extremely overprotective mother, but Ronnie + Jeff knew they were loved.

Ronnie remembers how Mom tried to teach him piano when he was 10 years old, but always a bit the rebel, he resisted. There was a lighter side to Aileen though, + there was a lesson he did take to from his mother, he remembers how Mom taught him to ~~Just~~ ~~Give~~ Give to 50's rock + roll.

It was when he was fighting in the tangles of Viet-Nam that Ronnie learned the depth of a mother's love. ~~despite his fear~~  
"It was the letter from Mom + Dad that kept me going", he says, "they gave me the strength + the courage to go on."

Jeffrey remembers how important education was to his Mom. She herself had been an honor student + was an accomplished piano player. She was always making sure that the children did their homework, practiced their music, she nudged Buddy to read to them from the encyclopedias that ~~she~~ adorned their bookshelves. OVER

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but he seemed to be almost quiet, the passage when he said to me or Eileen, "you were a pearl, you were more precious than any metal, you were one of the rarities of life."

He remember how Eileen treated him w/ all the girls in their social circle, sending him ~~her~~ letters + shuttles to help when needed. she was, according to Budds, "generous w/ my time - eggs me on to ~~do~~ my volunteer work w/ the ~~out~~ Cub packs, to make donation to charity + to help others."

"The best thing", says Budds, "is to have a partner in life - I miss her terribly, I loved her + I love her now."

Her circle of love expanded beyond her husband + sons she loved her daughter-in-law Linda, as one of her own. Linda regret ~~cannot~~ knew her before her illness when medication disguised her personality, but she too was blessed by Eileen's love

Eileen also had a special relationship w/ Buddie father. Budds remember that her father was his only competitor for Eileen's affection, that she adored him + loved him deeply.

Eileen was a very charitable person. She was proud of her Hadassah lifetime pins. In Chicago she co-chaired, with Buddy, the fund-raising activities for the Matilda Axelrod Cancer Foundation. She had a heart of gold, & was generous almost to a fault, dedicating herself not only to Hadassah, but to other charities as well, handing out donations regardless of ~~the faith~~ to charities of different faiths as well.

Buddy you recall going to the Cemetery & Communion w/ you dad after his death. You ~~asked~~ expressed some doubt as to the meaning of that Communion. I'd like to answer you here & now publicly. You say "you lost a good one that God intended for."

Know the Buddy & Ken, & Jeff. Today, despite his death you still share that inheritance. It's His devotion to you inspired you to be so devoted to her when she needed you.

May her memory inspire you to continue a life of sharing & loving & giving.

May her perseverance & her courage, her ability to go on w/ life despite the cards that were dealt, inspire you to be able to pick yourself up the next time you fall.

May her charitable motives guide you throughout your life.  
& may you come to the realization that you can talk to her every day as yesterday - that you need not be physically present at her grave, because wherever you go, she walks beside you.