

Grandma Vegter

by DeAnna Vegter Henkel

I was asked to do this tribute for Grandma, and was thrilled, until I was told I had to keep it to two minutes, and then I also heard later they had told Jeremy 4 min, so being offended, I am making mine, 8 min.

Many of my cousins and I were able to reminisce much yesterday over grandma and all our memories. If there was one thing Grandma was NOT, it was BORING. She was determined, sometimes stubborn, but she had a huge love for all her family, a huge faith in God, which never wavered, and along with that, a prayer life, in which she would pray for all of us much.

Here are a couple of specific memories that were mentioned yesterday....

Jenny and Rebecca were greatly impacted, maybe a bit traumatized, when one time Grandma came to school to pick them up and some young guys threw eggs on grandma's conversion van. Most grandma's would have been horrified but would have just sat there and complained, not our grandma. She whipped that van around and tried to chase them down!! That included flying over railroad tracks and top of a small hill, and they were literally airborne!! She never caught the guys, but it was a great memory....

Some other memories we all had were at Riverbend, a resort in WI that they spent their summers at. She was active, always riding her bike around everywhere, loved to play games and was competitive....we mostly remember playing hand and foot and shuffleboard with her. She was frugal, and we all remember many times of cutting mold off food, and then getting served lunch. She loved natural remedies and horrified Jonny when she tried putting Herbalax (yes , a natural laxative) on a deep cut of Grandpas. She was a fun grandma, and I remember being impressed that she went down the huge water slide at Riverbend! She was very generous, always a huge heart, willing to help anyone in need. Taking pictures was a BIG deal for her, BUT she was notorious for having us finally all standing there and smiling,

and then her camera wouldn't work, or the flash wasn't on, or the actual camera wasn't turned on.....almost every time. When she wasn't able to ride a bike, and she had to drive a golf cart, she got many strikes against her from the park security officers because she would blow through the stop signs in the park (she mentioned to Amber that there was no need to stop when you didn't see anyone coming), she would also park wherever she wanted to, backed through the neighbors yard if a car was in the way, and pretty much got to the point where they told her one more strike and you have to leave. There were a couple words she never could quite say, one was psgehhti—I always loved that and will still mispronounce spaghetti on purpose to this day, as a good memory. Her hospitality was profound. Anyone or everyone was welcome. Someone yesterday said she could make a 3 lb roast feed 25 people. Jenny mentioned one time wanting to have a bunch of friends over but being told they were going to grandma's house, she just asked grandma if she could bring them all there, and Grandma, of course, said yes and fed them too.

The two biggest things we ALL will remember about Grandma was #1—Her love for Family. She had a way of drawing them all together. Family was HUGE to her, and she gave the majority of us here that gift—of knowing how very important family is. I see that in most of my cousins. She and grandpa would make it out to wherever their kids and many grandkids were many times--including Seattle a couple of times when we lived there. This is also seen in the fact that there are 36 of the 40 grandkids here, and many of their kids, and the fact her daughters cared for her and never had to put her in a nursing home, and that all of her children were there with her this past week, surrounding her, singing to her, praying with her....absolutely amazing.

Lastly, but most importantly, the other thing we all will remember about Grandma was, her strong faith in God. I heard many mention too, that it was unwavering and never changed all these years. I remember, many times, Grandma sitting and reading her Bible. Yesterday, we read in her journal some pretty neat things-her love for the Lord was evident, her desire to teach her children about Him was clear. Her greatest desire was to see

all her grandchildren come to Christ. Because of her faith and trust in Christ, I know with 100 percent certainty that Grandma is in Heaven. She believed Romans 8 "that there is NO condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" She knew Ephesians 2:8 that it was only through faith in Christ that she was saved and there was not a thing she could do to be good enough or work her way to Heaven—only through what Jesus did for her. Timothy 4:7-8 She fought the good fight, and finished the race and kept the faith; thus earning the crown of righteousness that our Lord, the righteous judge will award to ALL who are longing for His appearing. All because of God changing her heart, Grandma followed Hebrews and ran with endurance the race that was set before her, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of her faith.

I thank God for this Godly heritage. Because of her unwavering faith and prayers, many of us family members here today are following after Christ and will get to be with her someday. That is such a glorious thought today, as we mourn, yes, but we rejoice that she is with her Savior and as Revelations tells us, the Lord has wiped away every tear from her eyes, He has taken away all her pain, she is now walking up there, enraptured with the music and singing, moving both her arms, she is healed and happy.