

Good afternoon everyone, my name is Brian and Dorothy was my mother.

I looked at many guides to writing an eulogy and almost all recommended focusing on a few memorable experiences. I was getting anxious about this when I was struggling to remember any outstanding events. I don't say this to be mean, but because I finally realized I was having trouble because my mother was consistently great to me all of the time. I was spoiled by the absence of any truly negative experiences to contrast with the multitude of positive ones. As many of you know, I was born much later than my siblings, which really made my childhood this "Goldilocks" time where it was almost like being an only child -- and all the benefits that come with that -- and none of the negatives that come with being a first born. Mom had several decades of practice with Marlene, Norm, and Sue and so all the bugs were pretty much worked out by the time that I came along. The memories I will cherish about my mom were her independence and her joy for life and love of family.

For my peers' mothers, independence mostly meant driving and working outside the home. Mom did neither of these things and even though she was from a different generation, even not driving was unusual. Still, she managed to get around. I remember taking public transit with her everywhere from a very early age. It was normal and expected and I don't think she really resented it. My peers probably didn't start taking public transit until much later, but for me it was routine and continued long after I could have had a car. She also achieved a measure of financial independence but not by working outside the home but by working for several years providing child care in her own home. This was a great example of her achieving her own independence doing something she loved and was skilled at and at the same time filling in for a much needed service in the community.

My other fond memory of mom was her joy for life at work and at play. Movies were a huge influence on mom's life as a young girl and this continued throughout her life. I watched many older movies with her. If it were today, we'd probably say I was getting too much "screen time". The funniest thing about this was that we still had a black and white TV long after colour TV was widely available but it didn't much matter because all the good old movies were in black and white anyway. I distinctly remember watching the Wizard of Oz many times and then being shocked the first time I saw it in colour. All these great old movies, particularly the musicals seeped into the rest of mom's life and I frequently remember her singing and dancing while working around the house.

Family was also important to mom. I remember the effort that went into meals around important holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas when extended family would be around.

And it really wasn't so much about the main course, it was more about the baking of deserts. Days of baking desserts -- more work than the rest of the meal. Thankfully the baking was a routine occurrence even if there was no special occasion. I also remember all the times that we would visit the Notleys or they would visit us and all of the laughter especially during the card games. Even after I had gone to bed, there would still be howling from the dining room table. This also reminds me of mom's sense of humor. She had an infectious laugh. The funniest thing was when she was recounting a funny story she would be laughing so hard that she couldn't finish it and would leave the rest of us hanging.

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I am so grateful for having so many happy memories of my mom. Thank-you for coming to remember my mom today. I know she would be so grateful.