

Paula - Written for April 29, 2003 Memorial
Service for Van

Many of you knew my father from another perspective, but today I want to give you a glimpse of a daughter's view. I am recently learning of things from many of you sitting here today: such things as his valor in the military, his persona in the workplace, and his reputation with the church. I am also being reminded of things I knew, but often took for granted: Things I cherish and will always be comforted by.

My dad, where can I start? He was a very special man. As many of you knew, he was always dependable. Dependable with a moments notice when this daughter needed help with her babies. Whether it be to hold them and comfort them when sick, or console them when their mom was overwhelmed. Dependable when they needed a playmate, chauffer or just a grandfather's tender touch.

As a dad, I have been very blessed by the man he was. You couldn't ask for a better supporter than my father. He was there for me, always with a positive outlook, and praising me every step of the way; He was my biggest cheerleader. This daughter, who often second guessed herself, would quickly be reassured that I was talented and special in his eyes.

I have fond memories of the kindness he always exuded. Kindness and love, you would see in the look in his eyes as he watched over his girls and his grandchildren. Kindness: shown in his gracious and giving demeanor. He was one of the most selfless individuals I ever knew; Generous with his time and his resources without a second thought. It was second nature to him to continually give to his friends and family.

Years ago, time allowed us to be roommates. A time when I was testing my culinary skills. A brave man he was to take on the role of a taste tester. One of my favorite memories was making bread together. Of course it never reached the table before it had time to cool because we devoured it! Who thought that such a simple task could bond a father a daughter together? But we definately shared a passion for cooking and consumption.

He set forth a legacy of compassion, generosity and selflessness; a legacy that I pray to God that I, too, can carry on.

Dad, thanks for being such a wonderful father and friend, I can't imagine my daily life without you. You will always be apart of me. I have great peace knowing I will join you when God calls me home too. In the mean time, know that I love you and I will miss you.