

# *Julie Elizabeth McArthur*

## *Our Fallen Angel*

*October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007*

Welcome everyone. On behalf of Julie, I want to welcome you and thank you for all the love and support you have shown our family.

Words can not accurately reflect how we feel about each and everyone one here today – your support is warming, your tears you shed with us are comforting and the love you exhibited towards our angel Julie has given my family strength.

It is amazing, simply amazing and on behalf of my parents, Helen and Leo, my sister Shawneen and her son Conner, my wife Brenda and our children Rachael and Dylan and Julie's soul mate and best friend Cam Walters, I want to express our appreciation of what you have done for us since we learned of our loss of Julie.

We are hurting, both individually and as a family, however your support has comforted us and enabled us to start down the road of recovery.

And this is important because that is what Julie would want us to do. She would not want us to cry but to laugh, she would not want us to feel sorry for ourselves but feel sorry for those who are not as fortunate as we are, she would not want us to question our faith but rather put our trust in God and last but not least, Julie would not want us to be depressed or upset that she has moved upstairs but she would want us to celebrate life.

So today we celebrate Julie's life to the fullest extent and I know that she would want us to do this not only today but also tomorrow and the next day and the next day.

It is sad and deeply confusing to lose my sister – the pain is real and constant, however it can not be for not. Julie would not want us to be sad; no she would want us to be happy. It is strange that although the past several days were the most difficult time in our life for my family there was something positive occurring.

There was a sense of joy, a sense of love, a sense of happiness evading the room in the funeral parlour yesterday. And this was coming from everyone who knew Julie, who was so fortunate to be touched by her.

It is so warming to us to know that Julie touched the hearts and souls of so many people and you shared that with my family by honouring Julie, by telling us your

tales about her, by offering your kind words and by waiting for up to 3 hour in line. Our family is speechless, thank you all.

For many people who know me, public speaking is not a difficult thing for me. Some may say I do it because I just like to hear myself talk – And although I wish I did not have to do this I know I have to do it. It is an honour and a privilege for me to share some thoughts about our Julie so today, I want to speak of Julie, not only as the loving sister to Shawneen and myself or the wonderful daughter to my parents or the great niece to her many uncles and Aunts who love her, or the kooky cousin, or the beautiful Aunt but as Jubes the special person.

Julie was a special girl; she was sensitive, compassionate, kind, thoughtful, caring, generous and gracious. Some people could not believe she was my sister! Julie I have a lot I can learn from you. – I only wish you were still here to guide me

Julie was always trying to find a way to do the right thing. Whether it was making sure an sensitive employee issue was handled properly or a supplier was being treated fairly or a charity needed help, she always put herself behind the issue, she commitment her time freely and she never asked for anything in return. Julie did not seek recognition nor did she do things with strings attached, no her motives were true and honest and they were to make a small difference in life. But you know Julie, from what we witness yesterday – you made a huge difference. You were so special.

Now you may think from my comments that Julie was a saint – that is the farthest thing from the truth. Julie had a mysterious side to her and she could get in trouble with the best of them. So do not let Julies' cute little pig tails fool you or her strawberry hair and cute freckles mislead you. Julie could stir the pot with the best of them.

I have fond memories of Oktoberfest in Waterloo with Julie where my innocent sister would steal event pins and other memorabilia from unexpectedly old men who could not figure out why this red headed hottie was suddenly so interested in them.

I remember another instance where Julie and her dear college friend Sally decided to borrow a live lobster from the Keg restaurant and proceed to drive down King Street with the lobster perched on the dashboard. If my memory serves me correctly, I think that poor lobster made it to a few other bars that evening.

Probably one of my fondest memories of Julie, and one that made me so proud were after one of my hockey games when I was playing with University of Waterloo, me and the lads go to the local establishment for a few drinks. There was this commotion at the bar and as the place was fairly busy I could not really see what was going on. As I approached the bar, it appeared there was someone lying on the bar; I thought that was strange however it was college and strange

things do happen. As I looked closer I realized it was a female lying on the bar and the bartender was pouring shots directly into her mouth. I thought, hey this is my kind of girl. Well as she sat up suddenly to help the drinks go down – low and behold it was Julie. As she looked around and saw me, she told me it was my turn and she suggested I pick up the tab!

Julie had strong values as a person and she exhibited them in her dealing with people and challenges in her life daily. Julie was never one to complain, she always knew there were other less fortunate than she was. Julie overcame several challenges during her short life and she always did it with conviction, honesty and a true sense of her being. While many other people may have complained or allowed them to shortchange themselves, not Julie. She took on issues head on, she wrestled them to the ground and she moved on. I can only wish I can be this strong.

One of the things that are so comforting to our family is Julie found true love. Cam, you and your family are terrific. You kids are wonderful, your parents so supportive and kind and your sisters are rock steady. Julie loved you, I love the story she so fondly tells of how you met and in my discussions with Julie I witnessed the respect and love she had for you. I know you are hurting Cam but I want you to know our family is here for you and you are considered an important part of our family.

To Shawneen, we have lost a wonderful sister and a true friend. Let us never forget the things Julie has taught us and continue to strengthen our relationship on the foundation Julie has provided us. We owe her that Shawneen!

To Conner, Rachael and Dylan – your Aunt Julie loved you more than you will ever know. She was proud of you, she loved being your Aunt and she will forever be watching over and protecting you. Kids hold those memories of your Aunt Jubes close to your heart and never forget.

And Mom and Dad, everyone here today shares your pain. Our Jubes was your special Angel, she loved you both dearly and although she is no longer with us, she will want you to know she is resting, she is having a cocktail with Aunt Nan, Aunt Sis and Grandma. She is safe and she is well. Shawneen and I, along with Brenda, Rachael, Dylan and Conner will do everything in our power to help you through this. There is a lot of love here today for you, and we are there right here beside you to catch you when you feel you will fall.

I also want to acknowledge the support we have received from Father John Weber and Father Tom McReavey. We are so fortunate to have your help and guide our family through this difficult time.

Also many people traveled great distances to join us today and I will not even attempt to thank you individually as I know I will miss someone. However thank you for coming, it means so much to Mom and Dad and the rest of us.

And lastly – thank you everyone for all your love and support you have shared with our family during this difficult period of time. it has meant so much to our family.

Julie – I want to say a few parting words from everyone here today. We love you and we miss you. You have touched our lives with a sense of kindness and gentleness that will be hard to replace. Our hearts are heavy, are spirits are broken however we promise to love life as you did, we promise to love one another and help our fellow man as you taught us to do and we promise to never forget you!

Good bye Jubes you blessed our lives, your time was too short on this earth but it was special – so special.