

A Tribute to My Mother

In Loving Memory of Phoebe May Tucker

February 18th, 1932 - March 3rd, 2017

If Roses Grow in Heaven

*"If Roses grow in Heaven Lord,
Please pick a bunch for me.
Place them in my Mother's arms
And tell her they're from me.*

*Tell her that I love her and miss her,
And when she turns to smile,
Place a kiss upon her cheek
And hold her for awhile.*

*Because remembering her is easy,
I do it every day.
But there's an ache within my heart
That will never go away."*

By Dolores M. Garcia

My Mother lived her life with a meek, mild, kind and caring demeanour supported by her strong religious faith. She grew up on Fogo Island, Newfoundland, and upon completing high school, she attended Prince of Wales College in St. John's, where she completed summer school to become a teacher. Her teaching assignments took her to classrooms in Porterville, Little Bay Islands and Bunyan's Cove, Newfoundland. However, it was at Little Bay Islands where she chose to put down roots. On December 7, 1956, she married my now deceased (2013) father Raymond Tucker of Little Bay Islands and together they raised two children – my older sister Daphne and myself.

Following the arrival of her two children, my Mother finished teaching to focus on life at home. She also committed much of her time to the United Church of Canada as a Lifetime Member of the United Church Women (UCW) as well as Sunday school teacher, choir member, treasurer and volunteer on a number of other church boards. My Mother was a lifetime member of the Green Bay Auxiliary (Little Bay Islands and Springdale) and extensively involved in the Lodges of the Ladies' Orange Benevolent Association (L.O.B.A.). In her spare time, she enjoyed cooking, baking and house cleaning. In later years, she enjoyed watching TV game shows like Jeopardy, reading and listening to gospel and Christmas music.

Growing up on Little Bay Islands, Newfoundland, my Mother provided a wonderful safe haven home of love and comfort. Such a sanctuary in fact that initially I didn't want to go to school and took the first year off!! However, my Mother showed incredible patience and gentleness to raise an often difficult early age child, who later ended up becoming a university graduate. Her unconditional love, kindness and caring ways were instrumental in building a foundation of core values which have steered me in both my day to day living and interactions with people from all walks of life. Over the many years, she always provided a silver lining of comfort, support and proper perspectives on many of my life's dark clouds. She was truly my most steadfast supporter and believer.

I feel truly blessed to have been influenced by my Mother's unique perspective of life; which involved sharing her food, conversation and knowledge with others. Words cannot describe her positive influence on me. She enriched my life in so many ways with her kind, caring and loving ways. She was such a gentle soul. For my Mother the church was her sanctuary while conversely for her son it's always been the game of hockey / arena!

Nevertheless, I have incorporated her social conscious and many of her core values on life within my Tucker Hockey business, my hockey teachings and my own day to day living.

- Always say thank you and show appreciation to others.
- Live life with a good heart of kindness and empathy.
- Show understanding and patience towards others.
- Accept others; see the good in others, and to forgive.
- To treat people with openness, respect and show compassion.
- Live by the Golden Rule - do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
- Keep your word - it's everything.
- Count our many blessings each and every day.
- Be steady in life no matter what happens - success or failure.
- To have a friend - you have to be a friend. But not just be

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a friend - be a good, caring, loyal, and dependable friend.

- To understand and accept that I was different. When I pursued my hockey career goals, she often joked – “You are different - bordering on unique!”
- To be conscious of and believe in a higher power.



I truly cherish our wonderful loving relationship and the many fond memories we shared over the years. Heartfelt and grateful thanks to my friend, my mentor, my Mother. She will always be with me in spirit. If we believe in a place called heaven - she definitely has a new home. A VIP seat! Love is eternal. Rest in Peace, Mom.

If

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:
If you can dream - and not make dreams your master;
If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:
If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'
If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings - nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And - which is more - you'll be a Man, my son!
~ Rudyard Kipling

Letting Go

To let go doesn't mean to stop caring
It means I can't do it for someone else
To let go is not to cut myself off
It is the realization I cannot control another
To let go is not to enable
But to allow learning from natural consequences
To let go is to admit powerlessness
Which means the outcome is not in my hands
To let go is not to change or blame others
I can only change myself
To let go is not to care for
But to care about
To let go is not to judge
But allow another to be a human being
To let go is not to be in the middle of arranging
all the details
But to allow others to affect their own outcomes
To let go is not to be protective
Its is to permit another to face reality
To let go is not to nag, scold or anguish
But to search out my own shortcomings and to
correct them
To let go it not to adjust to everything to my
desires
But to take each day as it comes
To let go is not to criticize and regulate anyone
But to try to become what I dream I can be
To let go is not to regret the past
But to grow and live for the future
To let do is to fear less and love more
~ Author Unknown

I dedicate the above poems “IF” and “Letting Go” to my best friend – Roy Rowsell. Roy and I grew up together on Little Bay Islands, Newfoundland. We have been best friends since the early age of 7. Over the years, Rowsell, I have truly valued your loyalty, honesty, candid advice and caring ways. My friend - I wish you always the very best of health, happiness and success. Peace within brother. Take care.