

## **Tribute to my Aunt Emilie**

Have you ever thought why we eulogize someone? Have you ever thought why we say nice things about someone at their funeral when they can't hear what we say?

Well, for me, the reason for a eulogy is to point out things about the person's life that we can apply to our lives. I would like to point out a couple of things in Emilie's life that I find important.

Emilie was my Godmother. She prayed for me until the final days of her life. She remembered my birthday and regularly sent Kathy and me cards and letters. She truly fulfilled the vows that she made at my baptism.

The Wesley Karkela and the Earl Skoe families have been friends for years. Emilie went to school with my mother, I stayed at Karleka's the first night I was out of the hospital after my birth, our families celebrated many, many holidays together. I stopped at Karkela's often while coming home from college and stopped often at Karkela's after I was married and going home to visit my folks.

I now fast forward to about 13 years ago when Kathy and I went with Emilie to the Forest Museum and then the Old School. This was the renewal of our close friendship with Emilie. Shortly after that visit she suffered a massive stroke and entered the nursing home.

I would never wish for anyone to have a stroke and be in a nursing home but it has been a blessing for my family and me. She was a very positive example of how you can witness of God's love no matter where you are or what your physical condition is. I have often used her as an example when giving testimonies.

Kathy and I remember, once when we were visiting her in the nursing home, that she excused herself from our visit and went to pray for a woman who had fallen and was waiting to be taken to the hospital.

Another example, of her living her faith, was insisting that the picture of Christ be rehung in the chapel at the Nursing Home because our country was founded on the Christian principles. Naturally, she won.

In summary, I would like to paraphrase what a Priest said at funeral of a childhood neighbor.

In this life we will never be able to hug Emily again, see her smile, or listen to her wisdom but there are three things that we did not lose: our love for Emilie, our memory of Emilie, and the love Jesus has for us.

Thank you Emilie for being such a positive influence in my life and many others.

Presented by Ralph Skoe