

## Carol Sieracki's Eulogy

Our sister Carol grew up in a house full of men: her dad, her grandfather, her uncle and her four brothers. This of course presented advantages and disadvantages. It was a totally safe environment with men close by most of the time both at home and in the community. But men are not the most gentle of God's creatures. Carol was a great cook and often baked cookies, pies, and cakes for us. We could eat all of the cookies as fast as she took them out of the oven until our mother would shoo us out of the kitchen. Carol was fiercely independent and competent. I think it was dealing with her brothers at home that Carol learned to stand her ground and hold her own in any situation.

We Sieracki men had another shortcoming. Although we loved our sister Carol dearly, we loved her sense of humor and her spirit of independence, we did not tell her that she was a beautiful woman both inside and out. Carol was a good Christian woman, who never had a cross word for anyone, and who accepted her burden of a brutal illness with courage and resignation so I am sure she is up in heaven listening to us today. Now, Carol, Robert and I have something to say to you.

You are a beautiful woman both inside and out. You were a professional beautician and your hair was always styled perfectly and it kept its lovely brown color even as our hair turned gray and then white. We know you didn't like to spend money on fancy clothes, but you always looked great. Your taste was impeccable and your sense of color was always true. You had a kind heart and never judged anyone. Your care and devotion to our mother during her time of need the last years of her life was given without measure.

You were marvelous as a friend and had many friends who remained dear your whole life. You loved getting together with your many cousins and you doted on your nephews and nieces. You were always there for your family and friends and you will be greatly missed.

You had the soul of a poet. You loved life and its mysterious twists and turns. Your mind was always questioning, searching into the meaning of things, explaining what motivates people. You had a keen intuition, which sought out the truth of things without having to scientifically analyze things.

You had the eyes of an artist. Your paintings of landscapes were filled with vibrant oranges and reds. Your trees were filled with color and the tree trunks were always curved and dramatic, capturing the beauty and energy in nature, a reflection of your own personality as well. You loved to travel whether to Florida, Ocracoke Island in North Carolina, the Apostle Islands in Lake Superior, the North Shore Drive, Montreal, Quebec City, the inner passageway of Alaska, always exulting in new vistas of nature.

You loved nothing better than a brisk walk in the park, in the forest, in the neighborhood to enjoy the sights and sounds of nature. You taught us to enjoy the changing colors of the four seasons.

You bought a cottage in an idyllic spot on the shores of Lake Louise in Deep Haven far from the noise of the Cities. Here you could enjoy the singing of the birds and the sound of the wind rustling through the leaves of the big trees around your house. In effect you painted yourself into the middle of one of your landscape paintings and there you enjoyed peace and beauty. You did have one wry comment to make after our Uncle Tom Peltier visited and left with a long stringer of fish from the lake. "There aren't any more fish in the lake. Uncle Tom caught them all."

Life in this garden spot was not a lazy life of leisure. You worked as hard as anyone could traveling up and down the roads representing major suppliers of beauty products, taking care of your house and yard, and pursuing your many hobbies. Sometimes you could be seen mowing your lawn after sunset. It wasn't only because you had so many things to do. It was because of your theory that pollen and dust were reduced with the evening dew. You had so many simple but tasty recipes: squash soup, chicken with rice, two-minute smoothies. And of course everything was super nutritious because you only ate organic foods with no sugar or gluten.

Carol, you were a wonderful daughter, sister and friend. We admired you so much and we so enjoyed your company. You taught us how to live in peace with little in the way of material things but much in the way of peace and love and humility and serene enjoyment of nature and our place in nature. As we pray for you, we also ask you to pray for us and know that your example of how to lead a wise and peaceful life will continue to influence us until we are called to join you, our parents, and our other two brothers who have left us.

Rest in peace Carol and may perpetual light shine upon you.