

Hi everyone. For those of you who don't know me, I'm Courtney, Jenny's eldest child. I want to start by saying thank you all for being here to show support to our family and to celebrate my mother's life.

In celebrating my mom's life, I would like to share some memorable moments and stories. Obviously, if you knew my mom, you know she liked to talk just as much as I do! I hope these memories bring a smile to your face in memory of my mom.

As the only daughter, my mom and I always had a special bond. She was my best friend. She was always there for me- at every soccer game and every gymnastics meet, making sure someone was always there to support me. Even after I quit, she supported that decision too.

She also believed in me more than anyone else ever made it seem. I always complained to her about how I thought I failed almost every test, but she knew I hadn't. She believed in me no matter what. My mom never failed to be there when I was upset over something. She seemed to make everything better and all problems go away.

My mom also always made sure my brothers felt just as loved. She would take time from her days and nights, even if she were busier than ever, and go out to the shed playing basketball, baseball, and pickleball with my brothers. Even during the winters, she tried to make as much time to ski with them as she could.

Mom also coached all of us in sports throughout the years- mainly coaching mine and Colin's soccer teams, but she even coached Chase in baseball with Tali one year and

they had fun with that...Everyone loved her as a coach, maybe not as much as I did as her child! People sometimes saw her as intimidating, though she really was the opposite at least in my eyes.

One thing I will always remember is her sense of humor. She always loved to joke with me knowing how gullible I am. One specific time I remember, she had asked me to fold the laundry and I hadn't done it by the time she had gotten home, so that made her a little upset. Well, my mom always used to tell me that when she died, her Will would be 80% to me and only 20% to my brothers! But that night she threatened to change it when she saw that the laundry was not done. Even though she had made up the whole thing, I of course believed that she had changed her Will!

Outside of my brothers and I, she loved her dogs. She had always told us how she was going to get rid of us kids and just keep the dogs- but obviously didn't because here I am. Anytime her life seemed "boring" she would buy a new dog - even though she had no time for that. She loved them more than anything, especially her favorite Zoe.

My mom also loved shopping- it's no wonder where I got that from. Any chance my mom and I had to spend together, we most likely would end up at the mall or shopping somewhere.

This last summer, my mom and I went to Chicago- not to sight see, walk around, or for the food, nope, we went to shop! I remember when we flew out of MN, my mom and I had each only packed our suitcases halfway full, to make room for our purchases.

Unfortunately, by the time we had to pack to go home, we needed to buy an extra suitcase to carry everything!

Mom and I bonded over shopping so much that when my dad decided to buy a house in AZ, we were devastated to learn that the house was an hour and 15 minutes from the mall! So every time we were in AZ together, we made certain that we got to the mall at least one day of our trip. And of course came home with more than we started with! Even though AZ had golf courses, pickleball courts, and pools, that didn't seem as fun as shopping did to mom and I. But at least my dad and brothers sure enjoyed the golfing part of it!

The last story I have to share is the day before she passed away when I was lucky enough to have her all to myself and doing what we both loved- shopping of course!

So last Friday, my mom flew back home, around noon, from a work trip in AZ (she shopped on her work trip too, shocking right?) I had a 1:30 appointment to try on prom dresses, so she met me at the shop in Woodbury. When we got to the store, mom saw a dress she loved and grabbed it right away. She asks me if I liked it, but I know she figured I wouldn't because our tastes were always completely opposite. But, shockingly, I did like it! I then go on to grab a couple more dresses, one being a red one she loved on me, and then another purple dress that I loved but she didn't- see, not the same tastes! However, she did say I looked beautiful in the dress. But when she saw the price tag she told me to "walk my butt right back in the dressing room" and she didn't say exactly that, but I had to filter this for church reasons!

Anyway, I'm in the dressing room again, trying on the dress she had initially picked out when we first walked in the store- it was a nude colored dress with silver beading covering it -and I'll be honest, it was definitely my favorite one! But I couldn't tell her this, since she picked it out and I hadn't! Well, as you have probably guessed, in the end, this was the dress we ended up buying. She was so excited, telling me how she was going to take all the credit for finding it!! And then, as we walked out of the store, she says to me "don't tell your father how much it was!" So I didn't and had to lie to dad about that (sorry dad!)

After that, my mom and I did some more shopping together, and we went to Lulu to do a return. Afterwards, she needed to go to another store, and I of course wanted Starbucks before heading home. But my mom, being my mom, orders me my drink and a grilled cheese online, to make it easier for me- and mostly because she wanted to make sure I ate! Well, I grab my starbucks order she placed for me, but halfway home I realize they never gave me the grilled cheese she wanted me to have. So, obviously I had to call my mom to tell her, because how did I forget to ask them for my grilled cheese!! She just laughed, in her laugh that we all love. That was the last conversation I had with her on the phone.

Later that night she texted me "have fun tonight" and I said "I will" and she responded "good I love you" - and then the last thing I got to say to her was "I love you"- responding to her last text. Little did I know that would be the last thing I got to say to her, not even goodbye.

Mom, you were the most amazing human being ever- the kindest, most caring person in every room you walked in. You never failed to make people laugh and smile. The world was so lucky to have you. You were a member of the school board, a coach, a business owner, a daughter, a sister, a spouse, a friend, an aunt, a cousin, a godmother, and so much more to so many people.

But most importantly, you were the best mom anyone could have ever asked for. I think that was your biggest accomplishment. I think I am the luckiest person to have had a mother as great as you- not just my mom but you were my best friend and I will forever cherish the time I had with you. Sadly you had to go, but I hope to continue to make you proud every day and I know you're up there watching over Chase, Colin, and I in heaven. I love you mom, so much. Mom, thank you for everything you did for us. I wish your time wasn't up yet- I miss you so much.