Family News

December 14th, 2019

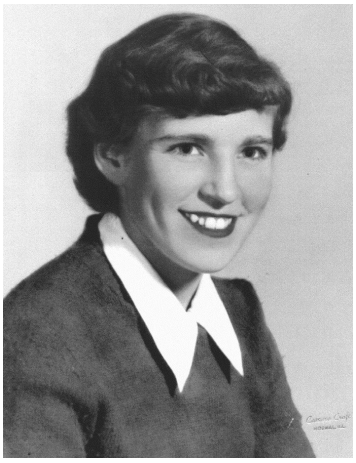
I began doing these newsletters in 1992 and this is the hardest one I have ever done. This will be the first one that Kathy will not proof read. We lost her on April 26th a week after her 62nd birthday and our lives will never ever be the same again.

Me, the kids, their spouses, our grandchildren, and both of our families and our friend Sinder still struggle with Kathy being gone. We miss her so very much!! Kathy loved to have fun. She loved life and knew how to enjoy every day. On the day before she died, she showed me, her mom, and her sister Lori - she still knew how to have fun and enjoy life to the fullest even though her life was near the end. It was a gift to see her smile. She loved to go kayaking on the river with Sinder and Ronda. She retired in 2006 and could do anything she wanted - most people only dream of that. She often said she was a lady of leisure, but mostly her life was one of pure joy, adventure, and fun. It is still hard to believe she is gone. She is dearly missed.

Exactly two weeks after having a memorial service to tell Kathy good-bye, we had one for my mother. She died on Mother's Day, May 12th two weeks away from her 82nd birthday. I am thankful mom sat beside me at Kathy's funeral. I think the thing I miss most about mom being gone is - her laughter. Mom always had a smile on her face, laughter in her soul, and love in her heart. I cannot tell you how much I miss these two ladies.

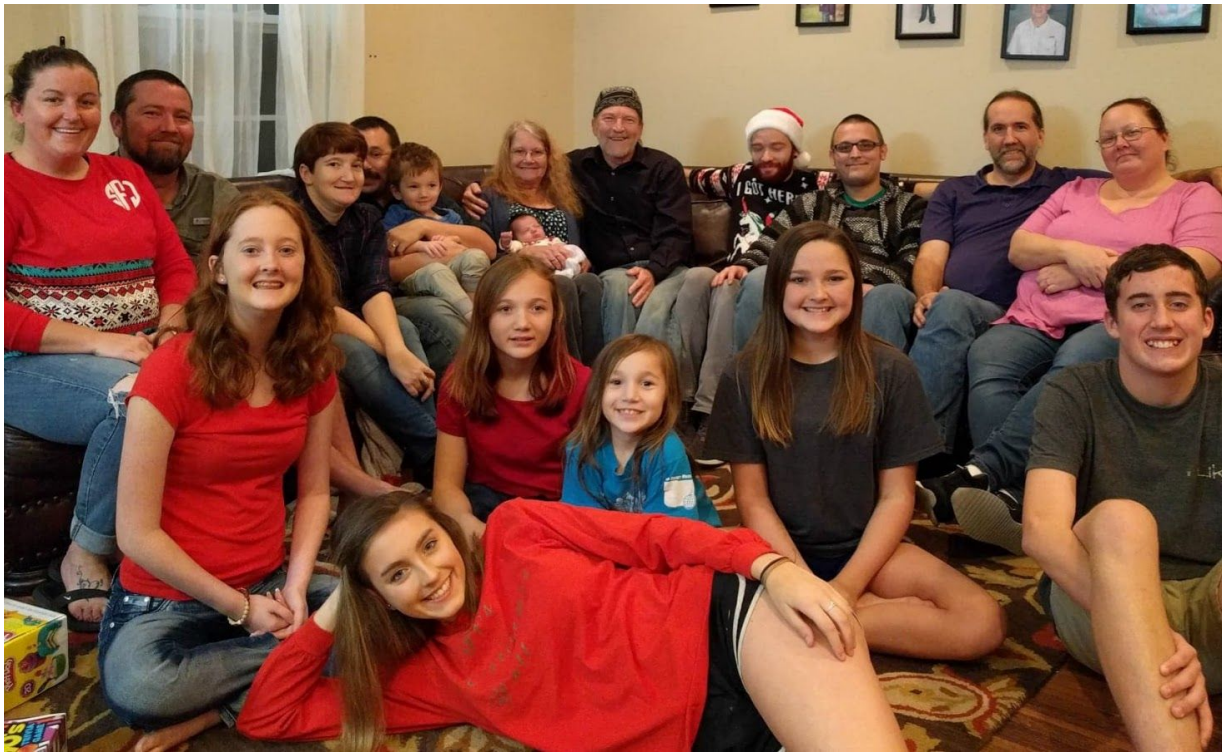








Missing mom and Kathy. Below, our first and last family photo after Cadie was born and before Kathy died:



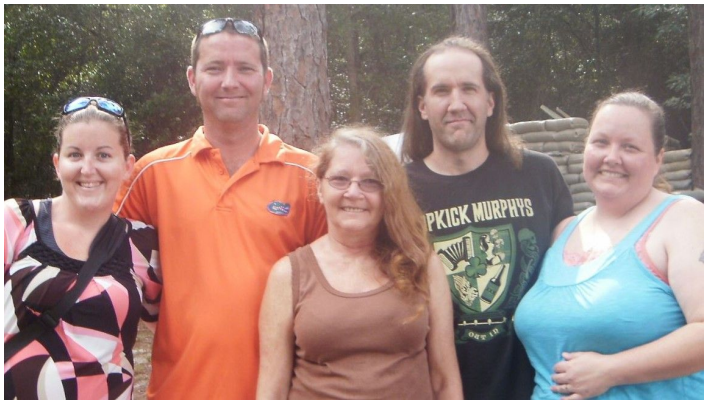
Justinn and Cory moved into their new house in March. I spent a few days with them in the mountains in June. In July I camped with Perry and his family in their new camper in Panama City. TJ and Angela have a new deck on their house and Marc is now managing a store in Panama City. I have visited with my sister Tonja in Atlanta a couple of times. I set a new record for riding a bicycle 56 miles with her one day. Had a wonderful road trip with my sisters, Tonja and Terri to NC to see mom's younger sister (Aunt Dean) in August. I also camped with Terri and Chester in July. Last February Kathy and I camped with them in St Augustine and took a tour of the lighthouse there. It is exactly 219 steps to the top. I speak from experience!! And Chester and I had a great time kayaking near the lighthouse!! And I have to give a big shoutout to my dear friend Sinder for helping me get through this year. Who knew last January would be mine and Sinder's last bean lunch with mom and Kathy. Those sure were some good beans.





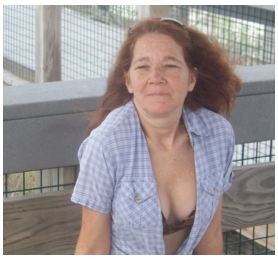
All 8 of our grandchildren are pictured above! Kathy sure did love her grandchildren!! I will let the photos below share a little more about my beautiful bride. We had a grand and blessed life filled with lots of fun:









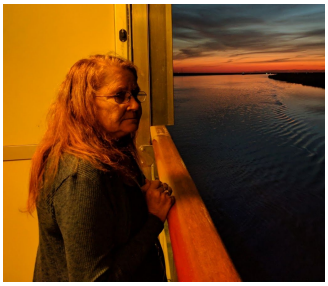
















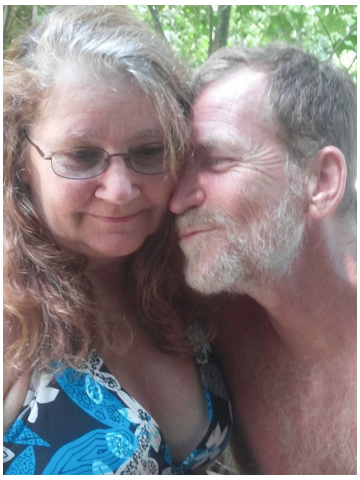


Above - the last time Mom made cheeseballs and the first family campout without Kathy.





Merry Christmas. We are looking forward to a better year in 2020!! In 2020 we will go on our family cruise that Kathy had been planning the past few years. Me, all the kids, spouses, and grandchildren will be heading for Mexico in June. Kathy's ashes will be going along with us.



Favorite Quote:

"The life of the dead is placed in the memory of the living." – ***Marcus Tullius Cicero***

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