

Funeral Monday July 19, 1982

given by Beth Campbell

I feel very humble and honored today to be asked by the family to say a few words about someone as fine and choice a woman as Mary. She was indeed one of the most beautiful women I have ever known - a true friend.

Thomas Hughes said, "Blessed are they who have the gift of making friends, for it is one of God's best gifts. It involves many things, but above all, the power of going out of one's self, and appreciating whatever is noble and loving in another." This was Mary for she truly had many friends.

Emerson said, "A true friend is someone who can make us do what we can." I feel that Mary did this for me and for many others. It was she who helped me gain the confidence I needed to grow and enjoy one of her talents that of marking and making quilts.

Her life is like that of a beautiful pieced quilt. Take a large rose square for the center - for love. Mary had love for everyone. For the young people she treated as if they were her own children; she always had time to listen and enjoy each one. And she had love for all the older ones and let them know and feel this love.

Add a blue square for her ability to always have time for helping everyone who needed her in any way.

A green square for her patience and understanding. Emerson also said, "the only way to have a friend is to be one."

Add a gold square for she was indeed pure gold in all she did. John W. McKelvey wrote, "someone has said 'if you want your friends to remember you, borrow something from them.' I want to turn this around and say, if you want to remember your friends, be sure to borrow from them. Borrow faith, hope and love. Borrow courage, humility and integrity. Borrow their Christian example of the unseen values of the soul. Borrow their confidence in the living God and their loyalty to the triumphant Christ. Then indeed your days will be filled with strength."

A pink square for she was a good cook and always so willing to share. She always could fix a nice lunch or meal for you when you were at her home. Amos Bronson Alcott said, "Stay is a charming word in a friends' vocabulary."

A lavender square for a good housekeeper and a wonderful homemaker. Her home was always clean and beautiful. Such a restful and cheerful place to be. It was open to all and all were made welcome.



An orange square for her love of sports. She loved to play ball when she was younger and up to a couple of years ago she loved to go bowling. And only because she broke her leg while doing this did she have to give it up. Mary suffered much from this time forth. Even though she was in much pain she seemed to always have a cheery smile and a kind word. Felicia Hemans said, "strength is born in deep silence of long suffering hearts not amid joy." H. W. Beecher tells us, "tears are often the telescope by which men see far into heaven."

A purple square for her cleanliness. She was always so particular in her own appearance and her wardrobe at all times.

A white square for her love of her church. She knew she belonged to the true and everlasting gospel and would uphold it at all times.

A red square for her love of her country and her loyalty to it.

A multi-colored square for love of her husband. I never heard her say an unkind thing about Ken. She was truly in love with him. I believe she would have done anything for him. He also was devoted to her. They shared the work both inside and out. They traveled together and just enjoyed being with each other.

A maroon square for life itself. I believe Mary was indeed grateful to get up each morning and begin a new day. She was always so full of life.

A silver square for love of her family. Although she had no children of her own, she could not have loved them more than she did her nieces and nephews. Their accomplishments and success were so exciting to her and she let them know how proud she was of them. A letter or a phone call always let them know of her love. How delighted she was when she received pictures of them and their loved ones so she too could see them growing up. She loved to talk about them and show their pictures just as we all do about our families.

You can now put all these squares together with a bright yellow for the sunshine. For Mary was the sunshine to be around. She was always happy, always a smile for everyone, young and old. Few complaints of any kind - just love and happiness for all. If we could choose a bumper sticker for our cars a good one would be "Happiness is knowing Mary."



An English publication offered a prize for the best definition of a friend, and among the thousands of answers received were the following: "A friend is one who multiplies joys, divides grief, and whose honesty is inviolable." "A friend is one who understands our silence." "A friend is a volume of sympathy bound in cloth." "A friend is a watch which beats true for all time and never runs down." Here is the definition that won the prize. "A friend is the one who comes in when the whole world has gone out."

A feel these definitions of a friend all describe Mary. I am grateful for the friendship I shared with her and the many things I learned from her. I thank her husband and family for asking me to share a few minutes today. May the Lord bless and keep her good husband in this time of sorrow, her sister, all her nieces and nephews who were so dear and close to her. I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

*Aunt Min died July 14, 1982*