

A Word From the Publisher

Last week a very special event happened...my mother, Julia Stearn, celebrated her 87th birthday! How thankful I am to enjoy that milestone with her. She was born March 12, 1932 in Sequim, Washington. Yep, Washington state! And yes I have asked many times, "How did you meet Daddy in Arkansas when you were from Washington?" Back in those days, people traveled where there was work and my granddaddy was one of those.

He always made sure to take care of his family so travel is what they did. Turns out that they moved to Arkansas where Mama and her sister attended and graduated from school. That's where she met Daddy. They went to high school together and never separated!

It's kind of funny that I can remember my grandma (Mama's mother) saying, "I can't believe my children are on Social Security?" Now, Mom can say the same thing, at least some of her children are but not all! Mama is one amazing woman. On Tuesday, February 26, she had knee replacement surgery (her other knee). She came home from the hospital Wednesday. I was surprised but not shocked, that's just my mama. She has an extremely high pain tolerance that amazes me! She said, "It hurts but I knew it was going to do that." The doctor remarked, "She did all the work, there wasn't any cartilage between the bones. She's been in some pain for quite a while."

I know she instilled in us those same qualities or she tried. I still quiver at the thought of a shot but I will take them without crying now. She is amazing in all she does. She (and Daddy) raised five children, cooked and cleaned and worked outside of our home when I started school. We all had chores to do that taught us to be good helpers in our own homes. She continues to keep her house beautiful and Daddy fed. It was very hard for her to allow us (children and Daddy) to help out after her surgery but we tried. She is determined to not let it keep her down, nor has it.

I'm so thankful for my Mama and to celebrate another birthday with her. She is an amazing mother, and a great friend (mother) to many. She always makes time to listen and helps in so many ways. Sometimes it's just the sound of her voice that brings calm over my body. She instilled in me that Jesus (and her) love me no matter what. She has been with me through thick and thin, highs and lows and continues to be a strong guide in my life! Thank you Jesus for picking me for my mama! I love life with her and enjoy each moment we share together! May God continue to bless her life and continue to heal her body! Happy Birthday, Mama, I love you!

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West

