



Birthday Tribute to My Mama

M.W. Story 14

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For mom, on your birthday.

Lori Egbers



Mom of 3 kids 6 and under with a passion of helping people tell their story. A tribute written for her mom, Bonnie Rasmussen

It is a little challenging to write this because your motherhood is one BIG Mama Win, and it is hard to pinpoint one aspect without it quickly diverging. But if we do not start somewhere, it might not get documented and that would be a loss. You are an incredible mother. Thank you for all you do.

This year for your birthday you asked for one-on-one time with each of your kids and grandkids "if possible." Yes, mom. Of course! We'd LOVE to make that happen! I really cannot imagine a better gift to give and receive as a mom. You told me you have been thinking about what kind of memories you want your grandkids to have of you when you are gone. *What kind of stories will they tell of their Nana Bonnie?*

No doubt their stories will be ones of joy, awe, encouragement, and gratitude. They will remember laughing in the finished playroom you made for them under your steps: an oasis of toys, pictures, and craft materials. They will remember the special table in your kitchen that was *just their size* and the countless times you made food for them, to their liking, with love. So much **love**. They will remember learning to swim off the dock with you coaching from the water. They will remember watching you tirelessly scoop weeds out of the water so that the water was more inviting. They will remember gardening, making loon calls, scoping out garage sales, making holiday crafts, and picking special flowers to pot on



Mama Wins

Mother's Day. They will remember putting on shows with your amazing collection of musical instruments and snuggling in your lap to read books. They will remember you asking about their day, genuinely wanting to know what they are thinking, empowering them and believing in them. They will remember these memories, sentiments, and so much more. They know that you love and support them without a doubt – knowing that you are with them in spirit in both life and afterlife.

If you wonder why I have a slight obsession with encouraging people to share their story, it is because of you. You have always valued taking time to listen and to understand people's stories. In fact, even when you do not have time, you always assume the best in people. If someone cuts you off while driving, you say, "Well, we don't know what kind of day they are having. Maybe they really do have a reason to hurry." You are slow to judge if at all. Your curiosity is an incredible gift and motivates you to chip away at people's façade, to truly understand what makes them tick. You encourage others to say what is on their hearts, trust their instincts, and be advocates for themselves. In a time when most people stay on the surface, you are unafraid to ask, to dive in, to seek to understand: whether the topic is God, people, ancestors, or any other concept or project. This inquisitiveness translates into lasting relationships. You are an incredible mother, nana, wife, sister, and friend. You see people with such loving eyes and find value in everyone far beyond any societal rankings or valuations – grades, levels, titles, salary, or assessments. This is such a rare and beautiful gift, and one I *try* to emulate. Thank you for being a constant source of love and affirmation. You love our family as-is, but also see our full potential and encourage us to follow our dreams. Thank you for the many sacrifices you have made so that we may pursue these dreams. You are an amazing gift to the world. Happy Birthday!