

Memories from William Ward Landry

When mom moved to Florida, it was an opportunity I knew I had to take advantage of. In the summer of 2012, a condo unit was available for rent three doors down from mine on the beach in Cape Canaveral. Mom was living in a nursing home, when I started to wonder if she would not be happier living on the beach. After long discussions with all siblings, mates, and social workers, we all decided that Mom, being who she was, would be happier on the beach. This seemed appropriate. In August of 2012, a two-bedroom condo was rented for Mom. In October 2012, Mom was moved out of a nursing home and moved to Florida.

At the time, I was retired from the "skies" and was busy fixing up foreclosures, including the one we were living in. This made it possible for us to be there and able to help with Mom. It wasn't smooth sailing at the beginning because Mom did have a lot of mobility and health issues. Nancy and I really struggled to get her in the best possible situation, and after the first several months, we settled in with two wonderful live-in aides. Rita and Shannon were a blessing from above. Mom was enjoying time sitting on the porch. She was watching television again. The aides had her walking every day with walker and gait belt. Her regular routine also included going up to the beach crossover where she would enjoy the sensation of being on the beach, watching the people and the waves, and getting to know many of our neighbors. Many of these neighbors would bring her flowers and gifts. Afternoons were usually spent watching movie classics on the Turner Classic Movie network. I have watched many and will always cherish these classic movies and the time that I got to spend with Mom.

As you know, Mom always wanted to be doing something. Other than eating out once a week, we would try special activities weekly. Mom loved the church service at the Cocoa Beach Community Church. We also had many rides in the car, visiting festivals, art shows, parks, cultural Indian dancing and many more events. We would sit and watch the cruise ships come and go. Also, she enjoyed watching the wind surfers soar with their kites across the Banana River. My fondest memory is when we went to the Circus - Mom loved it as a child would love the circus.

Special moments were spent with mom by her children. I will miss the excitement I would see in mom's eyes when I would tell her that one of her children / grandchildren / great grandchildren were coming for a visit. When I would use a name, Mom would always remember who they were and would ask how they were doing. Thank you for coming.

Once again, I could not have done any of this without the help of Nancy, Shannon, Rita, Sheila, Shirley, Ethel, my brother, sisters, the agencies and many more -

Thank you, Lord, for giving me this time with my mother in her later years.