

When contemplating the life of Ann Appley, I experience mixed emotions of Sadness and Joy. Although Mom is no longer with us, I know she no longer suffers. No more Psychological or Physical pain for such a tough, courageous, enigmatic woman.

With all four of my nuclear family's parents still alive... we were beginning to think our parents, and thus we, were "invincible." Losing our Aunt Judi in 2014 and our Bonus Mom, Faith, in 2015, offered evidence of our mortality. And now... with the loss of our Birth Mother, Ann Appley... the evidence of our mortality is mounting. Yet, why then, does invincibility still appear to be a viable option.

For some, The Source of the Universe and "the width and depth of vast eternity" brings Hope, Comfort, and Solace (saw-less) in the face of mortality. And... at times... The Source of the Universe and "the width and depth of vast eternity" offers, however fleeting, a feeling of invincibility.

Let it be known, Ann Appley, was one Strong Woman. Even with all of those tapes constantly running in her head... tapes that created such a high degree of insecurity, anxiety, and fear of missing out... Ann Appley not only survived... she thrived! In spite of her relationship with her mother, father, and sister, Mom found her place in this world where she was loved, she was worthy, she was authentic, she connected, and she made an impact. Mom's life was well lived and lived well. Mom's heart was so big, she was willing to give life, limb, and liberty to expose herself to personal danger for the benefit of those known and strangers alike. Mom's Mission went beyond her love and passion for her significant others, Mom's Mission went beyond her love and passion for her children, Mom's Mission went beyond her love and passion for her step-children, Mom's Mission went beyond her love and passion for her grand-children. Mom's Mission was so big it included bringing Peace and Justice to this world. A tall order for any woman or man.

And... Mom was willing to go to the far corners of the globe, at times in war-torn Nations, to do it. Although I am proud of my Mom's Peace and Justice Mission, I had to LEARN to be proud. It was difficult at times to be proud of my Mom's Peace and Justice Mission as my selfishness and immature, self-centered focus led me down the path of judging Ann Appley's performance as a mother and spouse. Let me be clear, I learned to be proud of my Mom... not only for her efforts to bring Peace and Justice to this world, but also for her efforts to be the best mother and significant other she could be. Working tirelessly to create a better, more equitable world for her and for generations to come, while raising four, pretty-damn-well-put-together kids... (If I do Say-So myself...) Mom raised four children and taught them at a very early age, during volatile times, that Black Lives Matter, Blue Lives Matter, Old Lives Matter, Farm Workers Lives Matter, Vietnamese Lives Matter, Mexican Lives Matter, Lebanese Lives Matter, German Lives Matter, LGBTQ Lives Matter, Immigrant Lives Matter, Physically and Mentally Challenged Lives Matter, Jewish Lives Matter, Muslim Lives Matter, Buddhist Lives Matter, and of course Women's Lives Matter, Women's Voices Matter, and Women's Opinions Matter. That all people are created equal. All Lives Matter.

Serving others diligently for so many years. Maintaining focus facing what appeared to be insurmountable odds, and never losing her infectious, keen, sense of humor... which, I am sure, drew her to my Pops in the first place. A sense of humor that Mom passed on to all generations to come. A sense of humor that is clearly a necessity for surviving and thriving in a world filled with war and injustice.

Pilgrim Place is a "Special Place" and my comments today would not be complete without thanking all of you. An unfathomably enormous thank you to Family, Pilgrims, Care Givers, Nurses, Doctors, Social Workers, Staff, Food Service Providers, Right at Home Companions, Volunteers, Administration, and anyone else I may have missed. It

really does take a Village! Thank you for your care, concern, friendship, and love for Ann Appley. Even though caring for Mom was not always a challenge free environment, you accepted the challenge and provided the care. Thank you!

Thank you for providing a home for Mom for the final eleven plus years of her life. From 511 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, to Pitzer North, Pitzer South, the Health Services Center/Robin's Nest, and finally Hospice. Mom enjoyed being with and around "her people." Mom lived and died on her terms... and every one of you shared in making this happen. Mom taught us to say please and thank you... thanks to all of you from the bottom of our hearts as Mom thanks you from her current place in the Universe. As my Father-In-Law, Wes, says, "aging is not for the faint of heart!" May the Source of the Universe bring each of you strength, humor, memory, good health, quality elder care, meals and a roof over your head, and loving friends and family as you continue your journey toward the "width and depth of the vast eternity" that awaits us all.

Rest in Peace Ann Appley... Rest in Peace Mom!

-Lawrence "Pete" Cohen, Son of Ann Appley

#### References:

"In the Midst of Winter, I finally learned that there was... in me... an invincible summer.' -Albert Camus

"And can it be that in a world so full and busy, the loss of one weak creature makes a void in any heart, so wide and deep that nothing but the width and depth of vast eternity can fill it up!" -Charles Dickens