

DID I THANK YOU?

A Message to Mom from Her Daughter

Now that I am grown and have grown daughters of my own; did I thank you? Did I thank you for making me feel important? Did I tell you, or was it lost in the shuffle of our everyday lives; the busy full days when you taught me and we learned, and we didn't know it yet? What did you teach, you ask - was it strong - was it good? Did it root in us - into something real that has allowed us to grow with a firm and sound foundation? You've taught us...How to love, not with a fair weather love, but with a love that accepts and cherishes, unconditionally - not with a love that is quick and passing, but with a love that has a quiet and lasting place within our hearts.

You demonstrated thoughtfulness, not to be a martyr or a doormat to be trod upon; but to be aware of other people and their needs. To meet others with awareness; meeting them halfway, and on occasions, going the other half joyfully. You showed how to be courteous; not to display empty manners with no meaning, but to live the courtesy born of caring, and to express this caring through small formalities and customs passed on over the years. You've demonstrated boldness - not afraid of the unknown, but have lived life to the fullest; meeting each new experience with joy and anticipation - while, at the same time, tempering your daring sense of adventure with good judgment and consideration.

You have served other people - sometimes in small ways where there is growth and satisfaction in being part of something larger than yourself. Our lives have been richer for knowing this. You've given us a life in the present with a sense of the past - to recall and uphold all that is best and meaningful in our country and in our society; but never afraid to speak out when there is room for improvement. You've taught us to work for what we believe in...in a positive way within a structure of order and reason.

Have we told you that because of you, we have found a part of nature that speaks to us...in the mountain peak, in a windswept beach; and in nature, we have found restoration and peace? We have learned to laugh, to dance and to sing because in a life that at times has been hard, we found and made time for creative spirit and let it grow. Have I shared with you the joy and challenges you helped me to experience as a woman - the joy of having a child...knowing and sharing a new life? The joy of making a home the center, but not the limit, for the lives of those I love? The joys of exploring this third dimension - The worlds of helping these lives discover and fulfill their own potential?

AND, Have I shared with you these things as we've gone along our way? Did I tell you...it's a good life? And did I tell you... I am humbly grateful?

Adapted by Gay Richards
From writings by Elizabeth Knapp
~Mother's Day 2007