

## **Words for Sally**

Sally, this is the one time I hoped I would not have to be standing up here giving you this send off; but life is seldom what we expect and now we are experiencing a milestone that is bittersweet for all of us. While we are happy and relieved that you are no longer in pain and that you are beginning your spiritual life with our Savior and loved ones, we are saddened to know it's the ending of a wonderful earthly life that we've been blessed to share with you.

Knowing you has enriched our lives. We are better people because of the special person you are and the rare gift you had of making us all feel special. I respect you for your strong faith, integrity, your visions, your values and your fight. I admired your passion, your commitment, your deep sense of humanity. You always had time to listen; you were always thinking of others. I've had more people tell me how wonderful you made them feel when they would get a note or a card from you during their loss, illness or their fight for life, as you were experiencing the same.

Personally, I'm so thankful to have been blessed with someone who has guided me through the years. We experienced sadness and joy and through it all, we always believed that the clouds would clear and the sun would shine. Your daily inspiration is what I'll miss most along with your special smile and enlightening spirit. You have touched my soul and made me better both personally and professionally, and for that I will be eternally grateful.

When I read your updates, I thought what a great leader. Sally, you've made us a "family" because you've allowed us to share your journey, your love of life, your sense of humor and your caring spirit. You reminded us of what is truly important, and that is faith, family and friends. God is great, he gave us you, Andy and Shannon, your family; and because of your willingness to share with all of us, we can see how life is meant to be lived. Thank you for re-enforcing to us these valuable life-lessons.

It is said, "a faithful friend is a sturdy shelter, he who finds one finds a treasure. A faithful friend is beyond price, no sum can balance his worth." Sirach 6: 14-15

Sally...you are a priceless gem that shone for all to see and we are blessed to have been a part of your life. We will miss your earthly life, but I personally have my seat belt buckled for the spiritual life you will bring to us all.

In life there is love and fear; Sally, you taught us to choose love. I will miss you and love you always.