



Loy Kolar

June 20, 1923 - August 28, 2015

Loy's Life

The text on my phone from mom's roommate said "I think you need to come back". The early afternoon sky looking out from her balcony was gloomy, soft and very quiet, and when they came to take her away, it started to rain lightly, like tears ... Loy Kolar died peacefully at 92 on August 28th, at her home with me and her roommate LaVonne. LaVonne, whose mother died just a few months before moving in with mom, came into her life for her to have a little guidance and company, but she was very independent otherwise.

She was preceded in death by her husband James Kolar, born in the Ukraine, who passed away in 1985 in Clearwater. I, Peter Kolar, was her only child.

Dad and Mom fled Czechoslovakia in their twenties (now the Czech Republic) for a brighter future away from communism. Mom's family had their own flour mill on many hectares (acres) of land. They would entertain locals and travelers with dining, dancing and music at their restaurant. Their home was above the restaurant.

The stories of the trail of adventures of how they made it out of Europe into Australia as refugees in 1949 was attempted by mom many a times, but she always digressed. In return for their stay in Australia they were required to work in whatever jobs the government gave them. Mom had the privilege of being the waitress for Audrey Hepburn while working one of these jobs.

After several years they finally received their papers to travel abroad, entering the US via Canada in 1956 arriving in San Francisco. I was born in Hollywood CA, not far from the famous sign a few years later.

They called several cities in California, Oregon and Illinois their home, while 'Flipping Houses'. They saved enough money to buy their first fixer upper when they arrived by

managing apartment complexes and just kept moving up. Dad did the painting inside and out (I learned the word linoleum at a young age and was proud of it) while mom decorated inside, landscaping outside. She always worked 2 jobs and kept me active in just about everything. Dad was also a salesman. When he was not fixing a house, he had guitars and just about everything you can think of in his Chevy Impala trunk to sell to you. Anyway, one property they bought wasn't a house, it was a motel in Lake Tahoe via my Godparents. I have fond memories there, high school and all. Florida came after the sale of the motel, but not until a home in Concord found them, followed by one in Chicago and then their last one here in Clearwater. I digress too.

After my father's passing, Mom's passion was ballroom dancing, followed closely by traveling to other countries, which she mainly funded by hostessing lunches in restaurants up and down the Barrier Islands. She specialized doing hostels when traveling – she enjoyed the younger crowd. She usually would say to management that she had an emergency with a family member in Europe that needed her attention, but that was her 1 week notice.

Some of her famous expressions were “I have more guts than brains”, “I used to be young and beautiful and now I'm just beautiful” and my favorites were when we went out for what she called a “bite to eat” but mainly she wanted to go out and be with people . . . “how much for a full glass” usually followed by “my life is too bitter, I need something sweet”.

She spoiled family and friends with amazing Czech recipes, as Anthony Bourdain once famously said, “In Prague, pork is king welcome to Porkopolis, the land that vegetables forgot.” A minute would not go by after entering her home before you had a unique beverage or something delicious would come out of the kitchen. Her various custom Christmas cookies were talked about constantly and in some cases hoarded. Her French Cognac homemade eggnog was absolutely outstanding.

Since Loy was not a common name, she would tell people to think of Myrna Loy, a past American actress. One gentlemen, Jim, always called her Myrna.

God has a way of giving us peace knowing our loved ones are at peace. She had a great life. She knew she was loved! She gave love freely and enjoyed life. Life is good, make the best of it, which she did. Thank you Hospice for being there for both my father and mother.

Loy, Myrna, Mom, you will be missed

Comments



“ I had a last dance with your mom at the Coliseum in St Pete
We had a good time, She Smiled all the way through the dance
And so did I. She was very lucky to have you Pete, to fulfill her every need.
Stay Strong My friend.

Henrik - September 09, 2015 at 09:53 AM



“ Thanks Heini . . . & yes, that was her last dance.

Peter - September 16, 2015 at 08:16 PM



“ Nice bio Pete! I had the pleasure of meeting your mom briefly on several occasions. I don't think she knew my name but did know that I was your boss and she was very thankful for that. Seriously, the first few times we met she wouldn't stop thanking me for giving you a job. It could have been the wine talking too. She had a vibrant personality, loved to party and dance, and I don't think I ever remember seeing her without a smile on her face. I didn't know your dad but much of who you are comes from your mom. The world is a sadder place without her and I know she would want you to get back to a normal life as soon as possible. My deepest sympathies go out to you my friend.

Ken - September 08, 2015 at 03:06 PM



“ I remember Loy as always being the sweetest lady and always the life of the party. She loved her son Pete so much and they got along very well together. They weren't just Mother and Son they were best friends as well. She will truly missed. Thoughts and prayers and with you Pete. Love you. Joyce Kelly

Joyce Kelly - September 08, 2015 at 06:45 AM



“ Peter, Very sorry to hear of your Mothers passing



jay jorgensen - September 07, 2015 at 10:44 AM



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Peter - September 07, 2015 at 09:38 AM



“ A beautiful woman with joie de vivre, with a wonderful son. My condolences, Peter. You are a lucky man full of beautiful memories of and with your mother. She will always be with you. Always by your side. Always.



Jan Stern - September 07, 2015 at 06:48 AM



“ You story was beautiful! May you find comfort knowing you have a great group of colleagues and friends that are here for you.

Linda O'Hanlan - September 07, 2015 at 07:20 PM



“ Rick Loiacono lit a candle in memory of Loy Kolar



Rick Loiacono - September 06, 2015 at 08:29 PM



“ I had the great pleasure of meeting your dear mother, when LaVonne brought her by our house, on one of their drives. We share a glass of wine together and I told her that my mother in law also came from Czechoslovakia, and she knew exactly where it was that she was from. We had a lovely visit, and I thank you LaVonne, for sharing this sweet lady with us that day. She had such a great love for her son, and spoke so fondly of you. What a blessing to have such a great life, and be so healthy and full of life, up to the end. Now she will be dancing in heaven.
My condolences to you in your loss. She was a nice lady.
Sherry Canterbury & June Graham

Sherry Canterbury - September 06, 2015 at 07:44 PM



“ She always brought happiness and sunshine when She walked in the door. Aunt Loy you will be truly missed. Love, Joie & Dean

joie miller - September 06, 2015 at 03:10 PM



“ Teri Bialek lit a candle in memory of Loy Kolar



Teri Bialek - September 06, 2015 at 02:51 PM



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Peter - September 06, 2015 at 10:55 AM



“ Glad you were there to share in her life LaVonne, and glad you brought her by for us to visit. Sorry for your loss as well, as I know you really cared for her. What a blessing she was.

Sherry Canterbury - September 06, 2015 at 07:46 PM



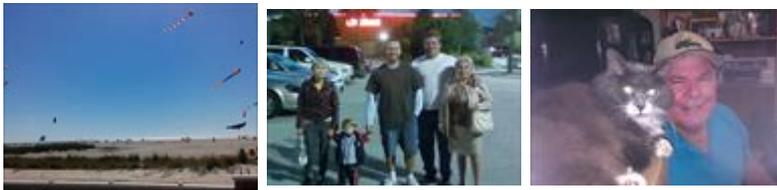
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Peter - September 06, 2015 at 10:52 AM



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Peter - September 05, 2015 at 12:48 PM



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Peter - September 05, 2015 at 11:46 AM



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Grasso Funeral, Memorial, and Cremation Services - September 03, 2015 at 03:24 PM