

Trivers 8.11.23

Marion Reid Eulogy

"Good afternoon everyone. My name is Maureen MacNeill and I'm the oldest child by 10 minutes to my twin sister Colleen. This is my sister Tracy Reid Sampson, the youngest child and together we will share some words of remembrance for our dear mother Marion L. Reid.

I want to recognize the Honourable Antoinette Perry, Lieutenant Governor of P.E.I, Former Lieutenant Governor Honourable Frank Lewis, Honourable Catherine Callbeck and the Honourable Dennis King, Premier of P.E.I, and all other dignitaries present.

I want to thank them, and everyone else who came today to help us, as a family, celebrate the extraordinary life of our mother. A special thank you to the St. Ann's choir and organist, our readers, Aline, Tina and Kevin, our eucharistic ministers Gemma and Marion, Father Kennific for the beautiful mass and the kind words he shared with us, Megan Blanchard for her beautiful voice, the Hennessey Cutcliffe Funeral home for the professional and caring way they helped us make this day happen and the Ladies Group for helping at the reception.

Mom had many roles during her life. To many people she was a trailblazer among women in Island politics, a strong defender of the land, a fierce supporter of family and women, a loyal friend, a coworker, a confidant, someone who was there to help others through difficult times, but for us, she was the best mom, grandmother, and great grandmother.

Mom was such a positive person. There was nothing that could not be worked out or another way to be found. As she would say, "Things work out for the best for those who make the best of how things worked out." She never looked back. She demonstrated this every day as we were growing up. I wondered many times how she did all that she did during her life. Mom had so much energy and was so strong. She was a doer. Little time was spent discussing how, or what needed to be done. She was a person of action and as it turned out it all seemed to get done. Both dad and mom were great at allowing us to do things as young children. We were given responsibilities at a very young age and I believe that helped us all develop self confidence and become very independent.

Throughout the years with many Sunday dinners everything was discussed and mom's philosophy about life and her beliefs were well instilled in us. Be kind to people, treat everyone with respect, don't judge people because they are different or do things differently than us.

Mom prepared us for life. There will be ups and downs, disappointments and heartaches, but keep going. I've heard her say many times, "Don't feel entitled for anything that you did not sweat and work for, without some adversity, you will never know what you are capable of being. Adversity will either grind you down or polish you up."

Mom always supported everything we did. She had a way of telling you what you may have done wrong but in a way that didn't discourage you. She'd say take responsibility and be responsible for yourself. How can you disagree with that? She gave this same advice to everyone in the family and I know her grandchildren have learned many lessons from her and her words will ring in their heads forever.

I learned a lot by watching mom when she was with other people. She had all the time in the world for them. Mom enjoyed people so much. She had great empathy for all people but especially for people she knew were struggling with life's hardships.

Education was so important to mom. Mom had a genuine passion and calling to become a teacher. We all knew how she felt about family but her students meant everything to her. In later years when her memory was slipping she never forgot about her students. As a teacher, they were encouraged and she always had extra time for those who were struggling academically or emotionally. The students respected her because she respected them. Mom always tried to find that special interest a student had so it could be nurtured and I know they would have been told many times that they could be whatever they wanted to be if they worked hard. I want her students to know that they brought great pride and much happiness to her all through her life. She would often say, "Education covers a lot of ground but it doesn't cultivate any of it."

Here are some quotes that were said to us many times, and I'm sure people here have heard them in her speeches.

- Hold your head up, shoulders straight and walk like you are going places
- One door closes, another one opens
- It's nice to be important but it's more important to be nice
- Act the way you want to be and soon you will be the way you act
- If a child has love, he or she will need little else and if love is not experienced it doesn't matter what else is given
- It is only a mistake if you repeat it, otherwise it's a lesson
- The only way evil can triumph in this world is if good people do nothing
- The test of your inner security is to see what you can do without in order to be happy
- Until power is replaced by the power of love nothing is going to change in this world. The ones who create power in people, not over people, will change the world.
- Choose your friends carefully. You were born as God's original; try not to be someone else's copy.
- Don't put your wishbone where your backbone should be
- Things work out for the best for those who make the best of how things worked out."
- Education covers a lot of ground but it doesn't cultivate any of it.
- Don't feel entitled for anything that you did not sweat and work for, without some adversity, you will never know what you are capable of being. Adversity will either grind you down or polish you up.

I am going to finish with one last phrase that Mom absolutely lived her life by and believed to her very core.

“Where there is righteousness in the heart there is beauty in the character. When there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home. When there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world.”

As is only fitting, mother will have the final word.”