

Bill's Remarks at Lori's Memorial Service

The music is from Lori's iPod.

Thank you all for being here, to honor Lori and to support the Kipp family during this very difficult time. We are very touched and overwhelmed to see so many of you here, from so many places.

- Thank you for coming from all over the bay area
- From the Monterey Peninsula and the Central Coast
- Mike and Judy Camy from Stockton
- Roger and Jody Delwiche from Santa Rosa
- Jerry and Miriam Silver from Southern California
- Bill and Priscilla King from Arizona
- Tami from Washington State
- Kevin Cross, Lori's cousin, from Colorado
- Ed and Barb Church from Michigan
- Eric Joneson from Michigan
- Bob and Arlene Britton from Mississippi
- Bill Armstrong from Connecticut
- Leon Venich from Florida.

So again, to everyone, THANK YOU. It means so much to us to have you here. Your presence is so very much appreciated.

Happy Times

So many happy times with Lori...

One of our earliest stories, one of my favorites –

It happened when she was about 2½. She had a musical toy she loved – Big Mouth Singers – and she called it “Piano”. It was a little keyboard with 8 round heads on top. When you pressed a key, it would make a sound and the corresponding head would open its mouth like it was singing. See the picture.

I was working around the house one Saturday, and Lori was playing with her Big Mouth Singers. I had given her a small



sandwich bag with a few pretzel sticks in it, to snack on. I noticed she was really quite intent, and I said to her ““whatcha doin’ Sweetie?”. She replied “I gave some pwtzels to my fwiend piano”. Sure enough, when I pressed the keys, there was a little piece of pretzel stick in each “singer”. Equal little pieces, as equal as a 2½ year old could make them.

We’ve recalled this story many times over the years. I think Lori and I laughed about it even as recently as a couple of months ago, because it’s cute, and also because it so well illustrated some of the personality traits that Lori had all her life:

- Generosity – she gave away her pretzels. As an adult Lori was very generous... not so much with money, because she didn’t have a lot of that, but with her time, her energy, and her concern and love for others.
- Fairness – every singer had an equal share. Anyone who bought eBay items or Giants tickets or souvenirs from her, or dealt with her in any other way, knew that she was always very fair.
- Organization – putting little things into compartments, to organize things. Later on, she loved to build with Legos. As an adult, she was good with spreadsheets, keeping track of our Giants tickets and which games we were going to, selling our unused tickets and souvenirs, helping Norma plan our travels, etc.

She liked to keep me organized, too. Another of our favorite stories happened when she was about 7. Like a lot of dads who travel, I used to bring home little gifts for the kids from the places I’d been. One trip, when I was unpacking my bag at the hotel, I found a little handmade card from Lori. It had some kind of a picture and a heart on it, and it said “I love you, Dad. Thank you for the gift. Love, Lori”. I got the message – “don’t forget to bring me something...”

Lori was a model child. I’m biased, but I think a lot of CF kids grow up with a greater sense of their own mortality than normal kids, and that makes them more thoughtful and less impetuous. Or maybe it was just Lori’s basic personality, or a combination. But whatever, Lori really never did anything wrong, never lied to us, was never devious. If you asked her “didn’t you ever get into trouble?”, the only thing she could come up with was the time the teacher wrote her name up on the board – that was supposed to be a kind of punishment – for talking in class. And I think the person she was talking to is here... Tara Cranfield?

Another one of our favorite stories was when I was teaching her to drive. The car was old and kinda beat up – perfect learner’s car – and it didn’t have power steering.

Obviously Lori wasn't very big and strong, and that car was always a struggle for her. Anyhow, she's learning to drive, and we're on a back road with no traffic, and she's doing fine. But then we came to a city street, where there was a fast-food place on the corner, so we thought we'd stop in for ice cream. We were coming up hill, we had to turn right onto the city street, go downhill a few feet, and then immediately turn right into the restaurant parking lot. Uphill, downhill, and two fast turns. She said "Dad, I can't do it!" But I said "Sure you can, go ahead". She was right, she couldn't do it, she made the first turn but not the second, and we banged into and up over the curb. The car wasn't damaged or anything, but she was unnerved, and I had to drive home. It turned out, though, that she became an excellent driver. Believe it or not, she never crashed a car and she never even got a traffic ticket. She was very proud of those facts, but once in a while I'd remind her that she HAD missed a turn and jumped a curb once, and she'd always say "I told you I couldn't do it!"

It's obvious that Lori was a huge baseball and SF Giants fan, and one of the places she was happiest was at the ballpark. We had many happy times at the ballpark. When we first started going to lots of games, she was really into getting player's autographs. She'd go down by the Giants dugout before the game, during batting practice, and get autographs. That area was supposed to be limited to kids, young teenagers at the oldest, and Lori at that point was in her early 30's, but y'know – at only 5 ft. tall, with her freckles and her dimples, hair in a ponytail, in her Giants cap and jersey, and in a crowd – she blended in and got autographs. There's a couple of her autographed baseballs on the memorabilia table over here. Anyhow, she got to know the usher down there by the dugout, Ike, and after talking to her a bit he must have known what was up, but he never said anything. We all got to know Ike, and one day Norma let it slip that Lori was not a teenager – that she was over 30! After that, Ike still let her come down for autographs, but he started calling her the "little adult". And he'd sort of make her his unofficial helper, like – "Hey, get that kid to pass his cap up here, and we'll try to get it signed", or "Hey, tell that little girl she can come up front". The last couple of years Lori didn't go down there, I think it got to be too tiring for her, and I also think she didn't want to expend the energy to climb back up all those stairs – although she never said that, she just stopped going.

Lori got to be very knowledgeable about baseball in general, and not only about the Giants. It was fun to watch people's reactions to her at the ballpark. We'd be waiting in those long lines to get into the park on bobblehead or T-shirt days and Norma or I would strike up a conversation with the fans next to us. We'd start talking, and they wouldn't

be paying much attention to Lori, thinking she was just a kid. Of course we'd be talking about baseball – what else – when Lori would say something like “well, he had three gold gloves with the Cardinals before we signed him”, or “yeah, that was when we got the grand slam to beat the Red Sox”. I loved seeing the surprise when they realized that – not only was she not just a kid, but she really knew her baseball. And they'd start including her in the conversation.

I think maybe the happiest times of all were just in the last year or so. Of course we didn't know it was Lori's last year, but we're so glad that we created so many great memories. A lot of what we did was traveling, and we made a great traveling threesome. We liked the same things, and because of Lori's limitations and our age, we all had about the same amount of energy and stamina. I used to say it wasn't just TWO little old people traveling with their daughter, it was like THREE little old people traveling together. It was perfect.

Anyhow, it started in Nov. 2009 when we vacationed at the Grand Canyon. We stayed for almost a week and had a great time. On the way back through Phoenix, we got a winter “baseball fix” by touring the Diamondbacks ballpark. Then Kenny and Emily came out in December, we celebrated the holidays, went to a couple of shows in the City, and just hung out as a family. In Feb. we went to Fanfest at the ballpark and I took Lori's picture with Will Clark, one of the Giants greats from the late '80s and early '90s. In March we went to Giants spring training in Scottsdale, took in a couple of games and toured the area a bit. Then we took our annual trip to Walt Disney World in Florida (Lori's other favorite place besides the ballpark). This trip was especially great because Emily joined us there and we celebrated her 15th birthday. In June we went to Europe, and Lori got to go back to her beloved Germany, where she'd spent happy times as a teenager. She had always wanted to go back, and she finally did. We reconnected with some of her old friends – we're so glad we took that trip. In July, Kenny and Emily came out for a vacation and we went to the Paul McCartney concert.

Of course in the late summer and fall we got all caught up in the Giants playoffs and World Series. We're so glad she got to see and experience all that. We were at the game when the Giants clinched the Division, and went to every home game through the playoffs and the Series. On Nov. 3rd I was on a business trip, but Norma and Lori got up VERY early, did therapy, and went to the World Series Parade in San Francisco.

Later in Nov. Lori went to Washington for her best friend Tami's birthday, then in December we went back to the ballpark and had our picture taken with the World Series trophy. And finally, we went to Indianapolis to celebrate the holidays with Kenny and Emily.

It was a great year. Pictures taken on our trips and lots of other pictures are running on the slide show over here.

It's still so painful to remember the happy times, because it leads to the realization that that kind of happiness is now gone forever. But I hope, in time, we'll be able to deal with the pain, focus on the good stuff, and appreciate how fortunate we were to have Lori in our lives for so long.

At this point we'd like to invite any of you offer a remembrance of Lori, a story, or anything else you'd like to say.

Let me close with some thanks. First, to everyone who helped with the Service, and that includes:

- Norma's sister Linda, and her daughters Tara and Heather.
- Tara's husband Mike and their daughter Kira.
 - Linda made the CF ribbons, Tara made the roses, they did a lot of the refreshments and helped with much of the preparations.
- My sister Carol, her son Kevin, and her daughters Kirsten and Kimberly.
 - Carol helped with the refreshments, Kimberly made the signs that directed you to the Courtyard.
- Our neighbor Cathy
- Lori's co-workers Connie, Robyn, and Julie.

Kriss Benson designed the beautiful program – thank you.

Thanks to our neighbors, family, and others who brought food, sent flowers, and gave us comfort.

Everyone who sent cards, letters, e-mails, flowers, facebook, etc. The response was overwhelming.

Giants – flowers, condolence messages, autographed baseball, and will put up a scoreboard message for Lori at the game on June 11. Special thanks to Cindy Hernandez our season ticket rep.

Thanks to everyone who donated to the CF Endowment fund in Lori's memory. This effort is ongoing – Tara Cushman is holding a fundraising event on June 18 in Sacramento. Ask us about the Fund if you'd like more information.

Very special thanks to my sister Carol, who brought us a meal and cooked and served it the next day right after Lori died, and then again a few days later. Thanks for being so much help when we needed so much help, and for just being there.

And finally, enormous thanks to Norma's sister Linda. She also arrived the day after Lori died and stayed with us for almost 2 weeks. She took over so many of those first difficult arrangements, helped us make those difficult decisions, cooked for us, cleaned, cried with us, and was of so much comfort. Linda, we can never thank you enough for everything.

Those of you who can, please stay with us for refreshments. Give us a few minutes in the back to get things set up. In the meantime, can look at the slide show and some of Lori's memorabilia that Norma has set up over here.

Again, thank you all for being here.