

July 11, 2015

Hello All,

Less than an hour after I sent yesterday's email on Mary's condition she stopped breathing.

We plan to have a Memorial Service for her next weekend (July 17 or 18\*.) Because today is Saturday, no one is available to talk to us about venues, dates, etc.

I'll email all of you details as soon as they are finalized.

Regards,  
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July 10, 2015

Hello All,

As most of you know, my wife Mary Burke had a severe stroke on Friday evening, June 5, 2015. She had had a similar stroke in April 2015. Most strokes are caused by massive interruption of blood to the brain caused by either a blood clot or the rupture of a major blood vessel. Mary's was different and was caused by many small leaks from inside the brain.

The only cure for that type of stroke is for the body to stop the leakages itself. That worked the first time for Mary. Unfortunately, this time it did not and eventually her brain became so damaged from the continual leakage that there was no possibility of her recovering. Yesterday, July 9th, Mary was placed in Hospice in Palm Harbor where she is being sedated and kept comfortable until her eventual demise. Ironically, **yesterday, July 9th, was our 58th Wedding Anniversary.**

In addition to her husband, she leaves a son, a daughter and six grandchildren. Mary would have been 78 on August 20, 2015.

Except for one day, I was at her bedside every day for 5 weeks. It was the hardest thing I have ever had to do. Watching someone you love die slowly in front of you while being able to do nothing and then have to authorize her end-of-life care in Hospice is terrible. I hope none of you ever have to do it.

Those of you who knew Mary know that I am not exaggerating when I say she was an extraordinary person. A kind and loving wife and mother. Generous to a fault. Always willing to help anybody. She loved to have a good laugh and a good time. A wonderful

Italian cook. And an excellent photographer. She will be missed by many—especially me.

Mary dearly loved the Suncoast Camera Club and the Palm Harbor Camera Club and all their members. Thank you for providing her so much enjoyment.

I want to thank all of you for the many prayers, phone calls, emails, cards, etc. wishing Mary well. I really appreciated them and on the few occasions when she was lucid, she appreciated them also.

I will let all of you know the final arrangements at the appropriate time.

Regards,  
George Burke  
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