

Dear Lou,

From the day we met there was a spark, wasn't there? A connection that held us together all these years. Looking back, all my memories are warm, even though we actually had very little time together. I'm sad about that, sad you're gone, but glad for the little time we had, and wanted to say what it meant to me, even from the distance that has kept us apart.

I'm so glad you and Walter did not miss it! Wow. You were good together. What a couple! I like to imagine the two of you in your heyday.... what a sight! Life of the party. Contagious joy. All that infectious energy and spunk. I know you were fun by the minute. The two of you were the real thing, had the real thing – love, and the commitment that kept you together. Thanks for setting such a bright example. Not many couples find the years together that the two of you had.

And what a beautiful family. You obviously did a wonderful job raising Gary and Cal. And when tragedy came, you were there to see Cal through, and into a new and full life. I know as hard as it was for a mother, it made you stronger. You've been there for them, you've been just right, you, to see them both through. What a gift for sons. Thank you.

Lou, now that the time has come to say goodbye, I want to thank you for all the years we had. The memories of what could have been have bound us close in a love that was and that couldn't be. I've loved all the time we did have together, and still keep the picture you shared to remember your beauty, inside and out.

And I know that below your exterior beauty was a soul, just as beautiful to the God who gave you all that joy. For the depth of your faith, a quiet love that radiated out through laughter and enjoyment of life, I'm grateful.

Lou, for all that was, all that couldn't be, all that will always remain, I am yours in love,

Buster