

insights and encouragement from the “home front”

# MEMOIRS OF A MOM

October 2012

## My Thoughts about Motherhood

Thinking about the topic of motherhood and the many memories associated with having and raising children has forced me to stop, to really stop and think about what it is to be a mother. For me, my introduction to motherhood began as a step-mother to two children who already had gone through the divorce of their father and mother. As a step-mother, I really tried my best, but of course, one can never really replace a biological mother, not really. For me it was a hard lesson to learn to be myself and not try so hard. With my many trips to the grocery store with my step-children, we always came out with each child’s favorite cereal and favorite ice cream. Now as my later thoughts about this come together, my most important function was really to just be there and be a support with love. And that is something I keep in mind to this day, as my step-children are in their late forties.

Yes, I did eventually have two children of my own, two sons. And again, I felt that it was so important to be there and to love them. As a parent, we make choices and mistakes, but we are forgiven, as many times as we, as parents, forgive with understanding and deep compassion. Putting in the positive side of things, we, as parents, give more than we expect in return, and the results are spectacular, our children grew and learned, and yes, gave us pride in every little accomplishment.

Looking back, I do wish that I hadn’t punctured young or adult dreams by being realistic. But honestly, I did say things like, “Don’t be disappointed because of this reason or that reason.” Or, “That may not happen because ...”. I wish those past comments could be changed to, “Let’s see how that could work!! Or, “What a great idea!!” Or, “Really? How wonderful!” I do see that my realistic responses and approach were much influenced by my own childhood experience and eventual widowhood. I see that I was desperately trying to fill in all the gaps, the supermom syndrome. Now, as a mom, I listen, reserve judgment, and still have much pride in all that my adult children and grandchildren accomplish. I still believe in being a support and do try very hard to understand the issues and thoughts being discussed.

I feel, as a mom, that pride in being who we are has been so vastly important. For me, it’s the pride in being a Native American, being confident, and always remembering the importance of family, our relatives, and where we come from. I am connected with my culture, my land, and my family. As a mom, I do feel confident that my children and step-children are bonded together by love, and that they will be a support to one another, have respect for elders, and especially, will have pride in who they are as Native Americans. We have non-Indians, Chinese, and Hispanics in our family now, so who we are really boils down to the acceptance of one’s self and the appreciation of other people. I feel good about my memories or memoirs as a mom, and believe that love is so important to growth and stability and well-being. With all this in mind, I am looking forward to continuing being a mother and, especially, a grandmother.

To all my relations.