

A Tribute to my Sister, Janell Rae Hewitt... ..

Janell, or "Nellie" as we all called her, completed our family when she was born June 19, 1964, the baby of the family. Mom and Dad saved all the looks for her, a beautiful baby who grew into an even more beautiful woman. We had finally outgrown the small farmhouse where my older sister, younger brother and I, along with Mom and Dad had lived, a really small two bedroom home. Dad felt the pressures I am sure to complete the new home, as I believe we moved just days before Janell's arrival.

Janell was an avid sports fan, and quite talented herself, playing basketball and softball for many years. She never missed a chance to attend her daughter's games, as well as those of her nieces.

A multitude of wonderful memories exist, along with the challenging ones.

Her daughter remembers her as a loving parent, always being there for her.

Mom remembers her love of jewelry. She kept her in jewelry with gifts on special occasions and last Christmas even made her a beautiful necklace and earrings.

Brother remembers playing a special game of dodgeball, which would most definitely have not been approved of by mom and dad, as it entailed Janell being placed on the roof of the house, trying to hit the boys with the ball as they ran around on the ground.

Seven years in age exist between my sister and I, however, we played on the same softball teams for many years, and the memories on the softball field are countless.

Older sister, as well as the rest of us, remember her competitiveness, and her strong desire to always be the best she could be.

The nieces remember her beauty, and her love of clothes and make-up, which sometimes included a stop to pick something up for her when she couldn't get there to get it herself.

Janell was diagnosed with Addison's Disease in 1996, at the same time we lost our Dad. It was a really difficult year. Complications from the Addison's Disease, along with other underlying conditions, took her from us on August 28, 2011, at the young age of 47 years.

The overwhelming support by family and friends during the loss of Janell, our "mother/daughter/sister/aunt/friend" has been tremendous and will be remembered forever.

I would like to share the following, in remembrance of Nellie:

*“When I come to the end of my journey and I travel my last weary mile
Just forget if you can, that I ever frowned and remember only the smile.
Forget unkind words I have spoken; Remember some good I have done.
Forget that I ever had heartache and remember I’ve had loads of fun.
Forget that I’ve stumbled and blundered and sometimes fell by the way.
Remember I have fought some hard battles and won, ere the close of the day.
Then forget to grieve for my going, I would not have you sad for a day,
But in summer just gather some flowers and remember the place where I lay.
And come in the shade of evening when the sun paints the sky in the west,
Stand for a few moments beside me and remember only my best.”*

A beautiful song includes “It seems to me you’ve lived your life like a candle in the wind, never knowing who to cling to when the rains set in” and “the candle burned out long before the legend ever did”.

Goodbye Nellie - you are our candle in the wind, we love you, and will miss you.

Your sister and family.