

1945

2013

Sonja Marie Tew Quigg

Memories

shared by:
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November 2013

Memories of Sonja Marie Tew Quigg

Life is better for everyone that met and interacted with Sonja.

(Tammy asked for a copy of my memories of Sonja so I thought some others in the family might also enjoy it. Remember this is just a small snippet of a few memories of Sonja's life story. Allison did a beautiful detailed sketch of Sonja's life. Please add any other memories you have to this. I was 17 when I left for college and Sonja was only 14 years old. There have to be a lot of memories of Sonja's life that I wasn't around to observe.

If any of you could share some additional memories for the rest of us to enjoy reading, it would be wonderful..... Love Jeanette)

A song is composed of notes that when put together sound harmonious...but when listened to individually these notes have no meaning. It is only with the skills of a master that these notes are combined to produce beautiful melodious music. Sonja's life in the hands of our Heavenly Father has had its ups and downs.

Her own individual melody has been created and it will sound so beautiful to her and all who love her and listen... we will all rejoice with her. Her life's song began January 11, 1945 in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Sonja was a beautiful baby with dark curly hair and big brown eyes. Sonja was about 3 years old when she first had surgery on her feet and legs. Following the surgery she wore high top brown shoes with braces on her legs. These braces had to be removed several times each day so that her feet and legs could be exercised. I can remember when I was old enough I was able to help by untying her shoes and unbuckling the braces in preparation for the exercises. As Sonja got older she wanted to be independent and she would say, "I can do it myself"

*There were multiple surgeries and Sonja wore those braces most of her elementary school years. We can imagine the teasing and bullying she endured. Her tormentors knew she couldn't run fast enough to retrieve whatever they might have snatched from her. Sonja did have two brother though who were her heroes and **they** could run fast. Warren was older and Kent just younger. I have observed that this stewardship of love has continued throughout the years.*

Sonja had a beautiful singing voice and she loved to sing the primary songs. When I began to take piano lessons Sonja would come and stand by the piano as I practiced. She hoped I would someday be able to accompany her as she sang. I think she was rather discouraged that my abilities were slow to reach that point. Several years ago our niece Rochelle Laird was reporting her mission I Wyoming. Kent had brought Sonja with him and she sat next to Becky and I during sacrament meeting. As we were singing the opening song my eyes began to tear up and Becky asked me what the problem was. I said, Listen to Sonja sing, She sounds like our mother." Becky and I sat there with tears as we tried to sing and listen to her beautiful voice singing the hymn.

Children's birthday parties where friends are invited to help you celebrate didn't happen I our large family. Sonja had been to several friends' birthday parties and she liked the idea! She wrote out some invitations on notebook paper and passed them out to her friends at school.

The day of her birthday Warren and I observed there were extra children on our bus and they seemed to be focused on Sonja. We finally determined that these children were going to be exiting the school bus at our home for Sonja's birthday party. We were pretty sure that our

parents didn't know about this party. As the bus stopped Warren and I got off first and we ran as we could to warn our parents of the coming festivities. Mother and Dad had been planning to go to Blackfoot for a short errand once Warren and I got home.

They still went to Blackfoot but with an additional purpose. Warren and I were now the party coordinators. It was a cold winter day so no outdoor games..no preplanning...no magic show..no television..no videos. We can't remember what games we played but I am sure we had some extra special help ...the house was still standing and everyone seemed to have fun when Mother and Dad returned home with ice cream and a birthday cake for a great finish to the party. Sonja had wanted a birthday party so she planned it and she had her special day to shine!

Sonja had a great memory...When I still lived at home before college it seems like if mother or Dad needed to call any family or neighbors they just needed to ask and Sonja could recall those numbers without looking them up. She also remembered everyone's birthdays and addresses.

As a young adult Sonja decided she wanted to go to Hawaii. I think the doctors she worked for guided her to a reputable travel agent who helped her plan her trip. No one in the family knew about this trip until shortly before her departure date. Our parents were very concerned about her safety on such a trip. Sonja went on her trip to Hawaii with a friend and had a very memorable trip.

Sonja has faced more than her share of challenges during her life but I don't ever remember hearing her complain or thinking of giving up. She wanted to experience all that life has to offer. As her family we will all miss our sweet sister who was so pure of heart. As I reflect on Sonja's life I am thankful for her goodness and her example of love and kindness to others and I rejoice that she is now with her loving husband Larry, our parents and grandparents. Allison, Ashley, Ethan and Joel, I know Sonja and your father will be watching over your family.

In a beautiful lagoon on a clear day, a fine sailing ship spreads its brilliant white canvas in a fresh morning breeze and sails out to the open sea. We watch her glide away magnificently through the deep blue and gradually we see her grow smaller and smaller as she nears the horizon. Finally where the sea and sky meet, she slips silently from sight and someone near me says, "There, she is gone!" Gone where? Gone from sight... that is all. She is still as large in mast and hull and sail. Still just as able to bear her load and we can be sure that, just as we say, "There, she is gone! another says, "There, she comes!" President John Taylor said, "While we are mourning the loss of our loved one, others are rejoicing to meet them behind the veil." I have a testimony that our Savior lives and He has given us the Plan of Salvation. I know that Sonja is with her sweetheart Larry, our mother, father, and grandparents. We will rejoice when we meet with them again.