


FINAL VOYAGE:

1st Corinthians

A FRIEND IS PATIENT
IS KIND
DOES NOT ENVY
IS NOT PROUD
A FRIEND IS NOT RUDE
IS NOT SELF SEEKING
IS NOT EASILY ANGERED
KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS
DOES NOT DELIGHT IN EVIL BUT REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH
A FRIEND ALWAYS PROTECTS
ALWAYS TRUSTS
ALWAYS HOPES
ALWAYS PRESERVES
A FRIEND NEVER FAILS.

BOBBI AND I WERE BORN  THE SAME YEAR, RAISED IN ALAMEDA AND ATTENDED HIGH SCHOOL AT THE SAME TIME. WE MARRIED AND STARTED RAISING OUR FAMILIES. WE EACH HAD THREE CHILDREN. OUR SONS WERE IN BOY SCOUTS. YET WE NEVER MET UNTIL WE WERE IN OUR THIRTIES. WE HAD A MUTUAL FRIEND, PAT SILVERIA, AND WE WERE BROUGHT TOGETHER WHEN BOBBI WAS INTRODUCED TO THE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION. ONCE WE JOINED FORCES ON A FEW COMMITTEES, WE DISCOVERED WE MADE A GOOD TEAM. THROUGH THE YEARS OF TRAVELING TO CONFERENCES WE EARNED A FEW NICK NAMES. FRICK AND FRACK WERE DISTRICT CREDENTIAL CO-CHAIRS. WHEN BOBBI WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE OUR BPW DISTRICT, I SERVED AS PRESIDENT'S AIDE. A MATCHLESS PAIR. THE LONG (HER MAIDEN NAME) AND THE SHORT OF IT. MUTT AND JEFF. ON ONE OF OUR CRUISES THE PHOTOGRAPHER REFERRED TO US AS DOUBLE TROUBLE. HE SAID HE WAS SUPPOSED TO MAKE US LAUGH, NOT THE REVERSE. BOBBI ALWAYS SAID "WHO HAS MORE FUN THAN WE DO". MY REPLY WAS ALWAYS "NOBODY!".

OUR FRIENDSHIP WAS LIKE A JIG SAW PUZZLE. THE DIFFERENCES FIT TOGETHER, WE BALANCED. YIN AND YANG. EBB AND FLOW. GIVE AND TAKE WHENEVER NEEDED. AS THE SONG GOES-FRIENDSHIP-THAT'S THE PERFECT BLENDSHIP. I WAS TWO MONTHS OLDER THAN BOBBI, TO THE DAY. EVERY YEAR FOR TWO MONTHS I WAS REMINDED OF THIS BY HER. I CAN ALMOST HEAR HER SNICKER. ON MY BIRTHDAY THIS YEAR, SHE WILL BE YOUNGER FOR ETERNITY.

OUR LATEST JOURNEY WAS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER. PLANNING WAS WELL UNDER WAY. WHEN BOBBIE FIRST BECAME ILL WE PLAYED LET'S PRETEND. QUITE QUICKLY IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT TIME WAS NOT ON OUR SIDE. THE DATE KEPT BEING MOVED CLOSER UNTIL FINALLY ON THURSDAY WE DECIDED I WAS TO CANCEL IT, UNLESS ONE WAS LEAVING BY SUNDAY. ON SATURDAY MY FRIEND SAILED ON HER OWN, AS SHE HAD THROUGH LIFE. CAPABLY, ORGANIZED, CALMLY, SERENELY AND GENTLY.

MY FRIEND ROBERTA HAD A RESERVATION FOR A CRUISE WITH AN UNKNOWN DEPARTURE DATE. WHEN MY RESERVATION IS CONFIRMED I KNOW SHE WILL HAVE WELL RESEARCHED THE FINAL PORT OF CALL. BON VOYAGE MY FRIEND.