

Letter read at George's memorial

Posted At : January 3, 2007 4:16 PM | Posted By : Michael Smith

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This letter was read at George's memorial last week. He ran Beltane, PolyLiving and FSG. He was great at getting things done and encouraging others to do the same. - Michael

Greetings to you all, friends and acquaintances of my late husband, George Marvil. I wish I could be there today with you to mourn and share your good company. Please know that I am thinking of you as I work at my business this afternoon and try to do all the things I believe George would want me to do to keep our home and family running on an even keel. I want to take a moment of your time to tell you some things about George.

George was a difficult man to know. When I first met his father years ago, he asked how long I had known George. I said I'd been dating him for six months. He said, "Six months is hardly a hello with George." He had depth to him that he almost never let anyone see. In the last 18 months, he had let down some of his guard. I'm so thankful we had this time together. I'm an Aries, and we tend to make war, not love, but in that time, things changed for us dramatically.

Our previously stormy marriage transformed into a source of strength for both of us. We learned something about loyalty, and something about the true meaning of love and of marriage. He learned to let old angers go, and I learned the value of being present in the here and now. Hard lessons learned, but good ones nonetheless.

As most of you know, he was fiercely devoted to Free Spirit Alliance, spending many years donating hundreds of hours to its service, and serving as its president. Not a perfect man by any stretch of the imagination, he always strived to give his best efforts to FSA. He had a dream that the organization's events would reach more and more people each year, eventually drawing Pagans from all over the world. He shared my dream that we could help the greater Pagan community's kids get a good education through scholarships and an environment that valued college degrees and learning. Thus was born the scholarship fund which will now bear his name.

His favorite way to pass the time was developing ideas and serving this community. He cared deeply about building it into something we could all be proud of. I hope you all know how important you were to him as members of that community.

Before I let you get on with this service, I want to tell you something that I have learned. Maybe some of you already know this, but I'm going to say it anyway. Time is the only thing we have that is truly of any value. You never know when your time is going to be up. I thought we'd have at least a few more years with George around to share his hare-brained ideas, boss us around, get things done, make us crazy, do the things he did. I was wrong, and I feel much the poorer for it. He would tell you, and I will, too, that you must make the most of your time. Live life to its fullest. Don't hold grudges. Don't dwell in the past and, by the same token, don't live for some future dream without regard for the gifts of the present. Tell those you love that you love them. Tell them every day. Live and be as happy as you can be. That's what he would want from all of us.

Thank you for being a part of this service. There will be memorials held at Beltane and Free Spirit Gatherings in 2007, and some of George's ashes will be scattered at Ramblewood in the spring. I hope to see some or all of you there for those memorials as well.

Blessings,
Cat Castells