

I want to start by thanking the Rev. Drodge and his family for being here today. In the spring of 1963 our family moved to a new development where we meet the Drodges. They had moved into the house across the street a few weeks previous. Tanya and the Drodge's daughters Sandy and Cindy grew up together. After Mr. Drodge retired he became a minister and officiated at my sister Tarline's and my mother's services. It really means a lot to us to have them here today and to have Rev. Drodge do this ceremony for Tanya. I know this is what Tanya would have wanted. Thank you.

Many of you know of Tanya's affinity for the little donkey Eeyore from the Winnie the Pooh books. Eeyore would greet you with "Welcome to my little thistle patch. Things are still a little chaotic around here, I'm continuing work on getting things unpacked and moved in. However, please stay and take a look around...you never know what you might find...". Eeyore is a very intelligent animal, although he keeps most of his knowledge to himself. That's why he is very quiet most of the time and a bit depressed. Eeyore loves being remembered on his birthday and hates being bounced. Often overlooked and used as a beast of burden, Eeyore always soldiers on. Eeyore's house keeps falling down forcing him to rebuild, rebuild and rebuild. Eeyore is capable of great compassion, shown when he resurrected a plant just by showing it a little love. While other characters like Tigger are fun, fun, fun, being an Eeyore can be gloomy. However, while Tiggers become popular, Eeyores tend to be right. To quote Eeyore, *'Pathetic. That's what it is. Pathetic.'*

Tanya was amiable and easy going with a cheery greeting for everyone. So, while Tanya wasn't as gloomy as Eeyore, she did share some of Eeyore's other traits. Tanya was very smart and tended to be quiet. She loved being remembered and really appreciated small kindnesses like being tucked in with her stuffed animals when she was little or more recently saying "you are so kind" when a wheelchair was unexpectedly produced when she was in pain. She was dedicated to her work at Lucent, working much overtime without pay or comp time and helping wherever she could. Tanya always strove for perfection. She would undo and redo large amounts of work to correct a small error. While Eeyore had his house to constantly rebuild, Tanya was forever trying to meet her boss's ever shifting requirements. Like Eeyore, Tanya had great compassion, she loved visiting with her parents and helped them to stay in their house as long as possible. We were all very grateful for her efforts. My mother's passing was very hard on all of us, but particularly Tanya, she missed mom terribly. The two of them used to go to the Smokey Mountains every year to sightsee, go shopping for crafts and look for presents for others. Tanya also loved plants, gardening, and animals. She got a lot of enjoyment from my parents pets and her own cats Ellie and Tux, calling them her "fun bunch".

In addition to Eeyore traits, Tanya had a dry sense of humor and enjoyed puns, sometimes mixing Dutch and English to create a pun. She enjoyed telling the story of the time she arrived home to discover a couple of police cars in front of her house. She could hear her alarm and saw that the police were talking to her mother. Then she noticed that she and her mother were wearing the exact same outfits. She got out of the car and the officer took one look at her and had a hard time keeping a straight face when he asked Tanya if she knew this lady who claimed to have inadvertently tripped her burglar alarm.

As many of you know, Tanya and her cats moved in with us a few months ago. It was very nice to have her living with us. Although she enjoyed being with us, she also missed all her friends. When she went into hospital, I read all your cards to her. She appreciated your kindness but cried when I read the cards because she did not know she had pneumonia and thought she would not see you again. When it looked like she had beat the pneumonia I explained to her what had happened and she seemed to cheer up a bit. The following day Debbie, Dave and Micki came up from Columbus to visit when they learned that Tanya had slipped into a precarious state. I am very grateful that they stayed until Tanya quietly passed. I am sure it meant a lot to Tanya. Tanya left us with many happy memories, we all miss her.

Last Saturday Tanya's ashes were scattered in Aullwood Garden, north of Dayton. It was raining lightly when we arrived and my son Kees said "Tante Tanya has gone to heaven and is coming down as rain". We scattered Tanya's ashes where her sister Tarline and mother's ashes were scattered. It seemed as if she was happy to be with them again for when we were done, the sun came out.

Dave Hogan and Debbie Stephenson have kindly agreed to say a few words. Dave will speak next. Unfortunately, Debbie's aunt Rose passed away last week and she is attending her funeral today so my wife Angela has agreed to read Debbie's remarks after Dave. I want to thank everyone for coming, you meant a lot to Tanya and your joining us today here means a lot to us. I leave with a quote from Eeyore which seems to sum up the past weeks and maybe life in general:

*'Sometimes he thought sadly to himself "Why?" and sometimes he thought "Wherefore?" and sometimes he thought "Inasmuch as which?" - and sometimes he didn't quite know what he was thinking about.'*