

March 15, 2006

To Tanya – my Dear friend!

I miss you very much! I still cannot believe your time here on earth is Done. There's not a day that goes by that I don't think of you.... Still Think about you rounding the corner to say "Hi Ya DAS!". Miss those Visits and my companion and dear friend!

We started at Lucent only one day apart – and from day one I remember you. We grew together as work partners – but soon became friends – I can't ever remember Having any arguments – you were always a good friend. The times we spent together I shall always cherish. I remembered the day we started work – we were the youngsters – About 7 or 8 of us in the year of 1983 – and working with the Dave, Rich, Norm and Gary and the gang- 15+ years our seniors – the "OLD GUYS" but really only our age now! Seemed OLD at the time. We use to joke – and I can remember you being stand back – and quiet ; However I always chimed in pulling the "BALD EAGLE" joke on our neighbor Dave D. saying "GEE – The glare on my screen is getting bad from the Sun today – must be the BALD eagle again!!!!!!;-)))))) HA! Then I would wander next door and Tanya would be BEAT RED !!!! she could not believe I said that!!!!;-) Dave would be just shaking his head.

Tanya and I being single all our lives got hounded by Dave a lot... when are you guys going to get married! But Tanya and I just have never figured it out.... I guess we are just too good of girls – and men are just missing out! Tanya and I always had a standing bet now for about 20 years that whomever got married first – owed the other dinner at their choice... in the state of Ohio!;-) I guess I will have to wait till I join her in heaven to see who wins the bet!

When we first started work – me being involved with sports – I was playing softball – but Tanya was never into sports. However, early on – I started a volleyball competition just for fun – where we would play every week after work for fun – to get to know the folks and just to have some fun. I convinced Tanya to come – even though she didn't like sports. She did fine –and of course was part of the winning team most of the time.... Ed's!;-) (Not mine! I also got her into Ice Skating downtown at an outside rink as a night event that some of us from the team would do. From Day one – I knew Tanya would be a friend forever!

Tanya and I had a lot of similarities – we both liked crafts and spending time in the garden and raising plants. Tanya liked to bake and I liked to cook. Tanya also cooked something that I never ventured into – which was Chinese. She always talked about cooking Chinese with her Mom on weekends. I told her sometime she could make me Szechewan chicken. She said – OK. So.... Over she came and brought all the ingredients. WELL.... Tanya was NOT used to cooking on electric – BUT.... She told me to put the wok on and get it HOT with oil to brown the Cayenne peppers – SO.... I DID! Well, low and behold - when she put the peppers in .... IT WAS HOT!!!!!!!!!!!!

WHEW! Peppers frizzled to a frazzle!;-) SMOKE instantaneously! Smoke alarm went off! Of course..... words from Tanya ...well I never cooked on ELECTRIC! HA! Well after opening all the windows /doors – OF COURSE = dead of winter;-) we got the smoke out and still had enough peppers to continue on!;o) When all Was said and done --- one of the BEST Sczechewan chicken dishes I ever had!;-)))))))))

Tanya always talked about her family – and I could tell she was very close to all of you and you meant the world to her! There are many of stories she shared with me – and I know she spent most of her weekends with all of you. Some of her favorite times were her trips to the Smokies with Mom. I never got to meet her Mom – but I have a feeling she was a lot like Tanya in many ways! She seemed like her sole mate and companion for life! I am glad she got to spend the time she did with her family. I know it meant the world to her!

Tanya and I spent most days having lunch together – she was my TRUE lunch partner! We also would try to have a really nice dinner for ourselves every few months – trying out a “new” restaurant in Columbus – since we were not getting good dates – we had to treat ourselves!!! We did not want to deny ourselves a good meal! Hey – that’s what good buds do! We always had our favorites – Bexley Monk, Handke’s in German Village, Sczechewan House (Chinese) - or Bob Evans and Latern Chinese - the always consistent place for lunch!;-) I will cherish those times forever!!!!

Tanya – this is not “good bye” – but “so long” till we meet again! I want to Thank your family for allowing me to stay in touch with your status during your final days here on earth. I got to know Arne and Angela over your last few days – and I really appreciate their kindness and welcoming my daily calls to check on your status. Thank you! I really never imagined how “fragile” you were.... You were very strong and determined – as well as someone who was a “true fighter”! You will always be a “WINNER” in my book – and a friend I will never forget!

Thanks for being my friend! I love you!  
Debbie.