

Jake,

I scanned through the list and saw several familiar faces, particularly Sam Scott & Bill Metcalf.

And then, I had a brainstorm. I am also enclosing a copy of the book I wrote several years ago about Carl. I had started it back in the 70s, but had stuck it away. I finally finished it in 2011. I have a table piece that I bought several years ago for Carl. It says: "IT AIN'T BRAGGING IF YOU CAN DO IT". Carl never bragged, but he had the right to do so!!

Please feel free to pass this around to others if you wish. On my list, I see that I had sent one to Sam Scott, when he was still alive.

Sincerely,

Bette

## South Padre Island

A sad day for the Island!

Carl passed away on February 19.

Just before Christmas, Carl got an all-clear on the 'sand flea' infection (from last May). We celebrated our 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on January 25. He surprised me with news that he was taking me on a cruise to Belize, Cozumel & Roatan. He had always wanted to go back to Belize, where he had dived for gold, and take me. Unknown to him, our girls also booked passage for themselves and their husbands.

On February 1, while watching the Super Bowl, he started acting strangely. I finally called Javier Garza (assistant police chief & longtime friend – he & Carl had gone through the police academy together when we moved back to SPI in 1986). Javie called 911 & came immediately. Carl was having a stroke – he walked down 2 flights of stairs in the midst of it!! He was taken to Valley Baptist Hospital in Harlingen. He was in the stroke unit for a little over a week & then in the regular section of the hospital. On the 14th, he was taken to the skilled care facility in Bowie. On Tuesday, he started rehab. On Thursday, while doing exercises, he was taken back to his room & then to the local hospital for tests. While in the ER, lying on a gurney, he patted Iva's foot (one of our 'greats') & gave 'high-5s' to a couple of people & held my hand. Karen & Jeff were standing by the door. Suddenly, he was 'gone'!

We had a memorial service at the funeral home in Bowie on Sunday, February 22. It was a sad way to see old friends; we had lived in Bowie for over 10 years. Then on Wednesday, February 25, he was buried at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery. Carl was a veteran of the Korean War.

Evelyn & Joe brought me home and I have been trying to do my usual island stuff. The Lord is taking good care of me. Evelyn & Joe, Karla & Jeff, Karen & Jeff have been wonderful, helping me with paper work, house care, etc. Present plans are to stay here, at least through the summer and then we will see what the Lord has planned for my future.

Now to the good stuff. While in the hospital, Evelyn told Carl that they were all booked for the cruise and although unable to speak, he gave her a 'high-5'! So he knew they would be going. Since there was an extra space, and a no-refund ticket, the girls suggested that we call my long-time friend, Jean, and see if she would like to join us. Jean & I have known each other since grade school in Memphis & have stayed close through the years. I was in their wedding & she has identical mirror twins, one of them named after me! She had not been on a cruise, so it was an added treat for her. Evelyn came down and picked me up and Jean drove down from Arkansas to Austin. Karen & Jeff picked up Karla

& Jeff and met us in Galveston. We sailed on the Carnival Freedom. It was a wonderful week, sad at times, but great that my family was together, and we knew that Carl was looking down at us & 'drooling' over all of the food!!

Jean drove me back home and has been visiting for a few days before heading back to Horseshoe Bend, via visiting friends & relatives on the way.

I am doing well, taking it one day at a time. The Lord is definitely taking care of me. I have my annual Texas Mothers of Multiples Convention in Amarillo next weekend – this will be number 42 and the first one Carl will miss in person. But he will be there in spirit. Then I plan to go to Virginia and help Carla & Adam as they get ready to move to California, where he will start his new job. Then I plan to go out to California and help them unpack. Hopefully, I will also get to visit Carl's sister Mary, who lives in the area, and Monica and her family, who live in Oregon.

I delayed writing to tell you about Carl, because I wanted to share about the cruise. Please keep in touch and PLEASE KEEP ME IN YOUR PRAYERS!!

Love,

Bette

P.S. Please note that I no longer have a land-line phone only my cell phone 956-238-7142.

We probably will have a memorial service at The Chapel By The Sea; but the date hasn't been set yet. We are thinking about next February.