

## **Dance On, Grammy...Dance On!**

*This is a poem my sisters and I wrote for Grammy's memorial service.  
I only wish I could have been there.*

A Little Bit of Everything That's Wonderful

Muriel Anita McKenney, better known to us as Grammy  
Is the type of person we yearn to be.

She is our hero and inspiration  
And to us and others she is a lady of admiration.

She was determined and strong  
And of course was never wrong.

She had a heart of gold  
And boy, was she determined and bold.

She was an inspiration to all  
Always having a ball.

A distinguished woman she was  
And forever she will have our love

Songwriter, dancer, artist, and the list goes on.  
She always found a way to amaze everyone.

She was not only a sister, mom and wife  
But a woman who had a successful professional life.

Six children she sure raised  
With 12 grandchildren bringing more on the way.

Grammy was a perfectionist, trying new things she would shine,  
She discovered if you're baking a cake, make sure it's Duncan Hines.

Despite all the madness, she was always dressed to the nines  
Secret to great spaghetti sauce? Why it's made with Heinz!

Going to her house was never a bore,  
A marionette show was always in store.

Many times Christmas was threatened to be cancelled,  
But there was never a time presents weren't ample.

If you were looking for a flash light, then you were in luck,  
She gave them year after year, humorously awestruck.

She was quite the trendsetter in her zebra skirts and heels,  
And did so using coupons to find Denver's best deals.

She was always young at heart  
And loved to find the blue light specials at K-mart.

Whether birthdays or Christmas, it was always an extravaganza,  
Did you know her living room décor is all things Santa?

Growing up a Girl Scout couldn't have been easier,  
Grammy would buy a year's worth of thin mints and store them in the freezer.  
(They're probably still there!).

I'll never forget her smile  
Or all the art lessons as a child.

She drove her giant station wagon in search of gas most cheap,  
As one of his many jokes, Papa rigged her car so when in reverse it sings "BEEP, BEEEP!"

Grammy was a midnight card shark, playing Texas Hold 'Em no one else could win,  
And if there is a grumble in your tummy, she'd say "Well better out than in!"

"Naughty, naughty you, it's not your fault."  
Grammy's first single makes us wonder what else was in her musical vault.

Incase you are wondering, it's a song about her dog, Thunder,  
Who in her mind just might have been the world's 9th wonder.

Breast cancer survivors were not common in her day,  
Special treatment you need but she said, "No, I'll do it my way!"

Thirty years later she was still growing strong,  
The doctors at CU were saying "Maybe we were wrong."

"Who is this woman with hair so red?"  
She beat the odds, an impact so widespread.

The sales ladies at Macy's all knew her by name,  
And Clinique bonus time purchases were her claim to fame,

"Look at her face, there's not a wrinkle,  
And have you ever seen eyes with such a twinkle?"

"What is her secret? We have so many questions?"  
Some say egg whites, beta carotene, and other strange concoctions.

But if you knew Grammy, you know the truth,  
Living life to it's fullest is the secret to a prolonged youth,

She tapped, she laughed, she danced her way through life's tough times,  
And every once in a while, "pull a prank", she'd say there's no crime.

After 88 years her body finally stopped and said "this is not fair,  
We're slowing you down, but your spirit is still strong I'm sure you're aware,"

It's time to go heaven ward where your spirit can be free,  
To dance on, laugh on, and be all you want to be.

We miss you more than anyone can imagine  
You're fiery spirit and unrelenting passion,

You were the queen of Xanadu, which fittingly means a “beautiful place,”  
Now you’ve found a new Xanadu in the arms of Amazing grace.

When we think of Grammy/Muriel McKenney, there is not one word that encompasses her in all,  
Her sister Cynthia described her best: she was just a little bit of everything that is wonderful.

*-Found online at a blog - [http://www.allyinmalawi.com/2011\\_09\\_01\\_archive.html](http://www.allyinmalawi.com/2011_09_01_archive.html)*