

Kathryn E. Umbarger

Arlee McLeod

September 12, 1996

*Dearest Family and Friends,*

*This is a short note to let all of you know that Arlee and I lost our beloved mother, Marguerite Jean Umbarger, on the 17th of August of this year. Many of you already know this, and your love and support during this time has been invaluable. For those of you who don't know, Mom had suffered with cancer of the larynx for the past two years and then enjoyed a small respite when this disease went into remission, only to have it return in June. This time it hit the lungs. The irony of it all is that she never smoked. She rarely complained and continued to live her life to the fullest until the day she had to leave. She has left many loving friends behind. She always gave of herself, even when it would have been easier not to.*

*You may recall that we lost Dad (Scott Umbarger) on July 13, 1991. Well, Mom always wanted to be reunited with him, and we know that she truly believed she would rejoin him. We scattered her ashes at sea per her request, in the same manner and at the same location as we did for Dad. It was a beautiful day, we were in a 40-foot sailboat, and two seagulls flew over her last resting place in a bed of rose petals and ocean spray, while Mozart's music filled the air.*

*Because of the fast-moving days, weeks, months and years, and intermittent illnesses within the family, I know that many of you have not heard from any of us for a long time. This because of the need to care for Mom, her mother (Grandma Ruth Marguerite Bickle McLeod, now 96 years old and living in a very fine assisted living care facility), and still maintain our respective households while holding down jobs. But you are in our hearts.*

*The loss of both our parents in the last five years is great, and the pain lingers. We have been a close-knit family, always weathering our differences in an environment of love and tolerance. Mom and Dad both taught us early in life to think, love, embrace all that is good, reject what we inherently felt to be wrong, and to stand by our convictions. They showed us the way to a world of books, great music, art, history, and a thirst for knowledge. Through them, we saw much of the world and were exposed to many different cultures and ways of living. For this, we are forever grateful. We will miss them deeply, but a part of them remains in us and our lives forever.*

*My very special and magnificent sister Arlee and her thirteen-year-old daughter, my beautiful niece Bevin, reside in Boulder, Colorado. Both are living, busy, creative and full lives. Arlee provides nourishing care to those in need, both spiritually and by way of assisting new life into this world through her midwifery practice. Bevin, a fine violinist, is planning to study marine biology and music. I am working with a consulting firm as an environmental/engineering geologist, and hope to transition into college teaching soon. My life partner, Michael Anderson, is in the same profession. In addition, he is single-handedly remodeling our home and turning it into a lovely place to live (when he's not reading). Grandma McLeod lives at the Anaheim Terrace Care Center, 141 South Knott Avenue Anaheim, California, 92804. She is as loving and gentle as ever, only chooses not to remember the immediate past.*

*We miss you all, and welcome you into our lives and homes any time you find yourselves out our way. May peace and good health remain with you all.*

Love,





**E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.**  
ADMIRAL, U. S. NAVY (RET.)

December 18, 1996

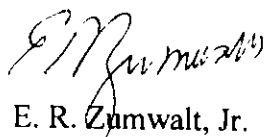
Kathryn E. Umbarger

Dear Kathy:

Mouza and I were deeply saddened to read in *Shipmate* of the loss of your mother.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of travail.

Sincerely,



E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.  
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

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