

Eulogy for Alice V. Pemberton (March 23, 1928 - March 12, 2016)



Ruth (Peters), Glenn and Alice (Pemberton)

We are here today to celebrate the life of my sister, Alice. Our parents, Lois and Frank Saltzman, had five children, losing two in infancy before Alice and I were born, leaving older sister Ruth, Alice and me. Early on, I had three mothers, and then at the age of two, Ruth married Carl Peters and moved away. Ruth's children became like brothers and sisters to Alice and me...and although younger than Alice, and slightly younger than me, out of respect, they nearly always called us aunt and uncle. Well, maybe their folks made them do that!

I have four qualifications which enables me to present this eulogy today: I have known Alice longer than nearly everyone; I may have known her better than anyone except her husband, Norman; I am the last



Alice and Glenn

remaining sibling; and, I am an ordained minister. Several years ago, our oldest grandson, Dan and his fiancé asked me to officiate their wedding. Dan said, “Grandpa, since you are a Navy Captain, we want you to do our wedding.” I explained that since I was retired, and no longer a commanding officer, I couldn't do that.” Dan responded, “You’ll find a way!” After a little research I discovered I could perform their wedding if: I attended Divinity School for four years; or, did 2000 hours online; or, paid \$39.95 to American Marriage Ministries for my ordination. I selected option three. When I told Alice, she laughed very hard and said, “Will you do my funeral?” And so here I am. I say I am a man of the cloth... and my wife, Ruth, says that the only cloth I can claim to represent is scarlet and grey!

Growing up, Alice was my second mother...mentoring me and bossing me around. She selected my clothes, kept a scrapbook about me, taught me poems and together we were a clarinet and piano duo. The only way I could persuade her to do something was to go to the chicken coop, pick up a rooster, take it to the house and threaten her with it...as she was deathly afraid of chickens, much like some of us are afraid of snakes. I only had to employ this strategy on eight or ten special occasions but it always worked!

Over the years our family celebrations, notes and emails became several hour telephone conversations each week to solve world problems. We talked about everything: politics, religion, civil rights, immigration, gay rights, mental health and particular issues of the day. In one of our discussions, we decided that at either of our funerals, the other person should pay tribute to our parents for the education we received from them while growing up. You see, Mom was a Roosevelt Democrat and Dad was a conservative Republican. We got to hear every social issue from both sides and we had to present the pros and cons of our opinions. There

wasn't a social or political issue that was off limits, and Alice and I believe that helped us to be more discerning, and open-minded, in our lives. Mom and Dad ALWAYS cancelled each other's presidential votes but considered voting to be important. They didn't believe in "America: Love it or leave it"...but in, "America: Let's make it better." Their credo was: Patriotism; the Ten Commandments; and, The Golden Rule.

Here is an often repeated family story about one of Alice's artistic talents....cake decorating. For one of our children's birthdays, Ruth had made a sheet cake outlined as a train. When Alice and Norm arrived for the party, they brought a two-foot long, eight inches high, three dimensional engine and coal car...complete with chocolate chips representing the coal. Ruth tried to hide her cake, but one of our kids showed it to Alice and she thought it was a dog!!

Alice's sudden death mirrored that of her husband Norm's over thirty years ago. Norm had received a set of golf clubs from the Ohio Gas Company for forty years of perfect attendance and two days later died of a heart attack after playing eighteen holes of golf.

Alice had a list of aches and pains but seemingly no major illnesses we knew about. Just a week ago Wednesday, she drove her car to renew her license plates and have her hair done. Friday. we discussed, and solved, the Donald Trump and Johnny Manziel issues....we didn't like Trump and didn't think the Browns should have drafted Johnny Football. On Saturday morning, she told niece Alice that she didn't want to get groceries and planned to rest in her chair...and, that is where she was found several hours later, without an apparent struggle. We are grateful that Alice did not suffer a lingering decline or death, something she had feared.

Alice was proud of, and is survived by: her daughter, Ann, a talented artist and harpist; and, son, Brock, an entomologist and outstanding athlete, who, while at The Ohio State University, won the Big Ten shot put championship. Alice was very close to her grandson, Kenny, who lives in Columbus, and enjoyed interacting with, and keeping up with, granddaughter, Calla, and her two children who live in California, and grandson, Adam who lives in Kansas.

Our family didn't fight and rarely disagreed...except for that chicken thing. I could not have had a better family, or better sisters. We were indeed, Blessed.

I would like to close this tribute to Alice with a prayer.

Dear Creator: Thank you for the life of Alice. She lived a life of love and devotion to her husband, children, family and this church. We loved her and she loved us. God is love, God made us in love, and God made us for loving. Alice understood that. We pray that each of us will continue to spread love, seek justice and live altruistic lives. This can be a new beginning rather than merely the end of a cherished life.

According to one song:

“This is the day of new beginnings;
A time to remember and move on;
A time to believe what love is bringing;
Laying to rest the pain that's gone.”

Let us leave this celebration with a renewed commitment to making our country better, following the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule and Loving One Another. Amen



March 19, 2016

Obituary:

Alice S. Pemberton, age 87, of Findlay, died Saturday, March 12, 2016 at her residence. She was born on March 23, 1928 in Findlay, Ohio to the late Frank and Lois (Stahl) Saltzman. In June of 1946, she married Norman W. Pemberton and he died on Sept. 13, 1986. She is survived by a son: Brock (LaTanya) Pemberton of Gahanna, Ohio and a daughter: Ann (Bob) Glasman of Montana. Alice is also survived by a brother: Dr. Glenn (Ruth) Saltzman of Kent, Ohio; 3 grandchildren: Brock Pemberton, Calla (Ben) Trofatter, and Adam (Chelsea) Roush as well as 2 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a sister, Ruth (Carl) Peters.

Alice was a 1946 graduate of Arcadia High School and was a faithful member of St. Andrews United Methodist Church in Findlay. She had been the President of the State of Ohio United Methodist Women's Association and had also been involved with the Northwest District United Methodist Women's Association. She had been a secretary at the Ohio Oil Company in her earlier years. Alice was very artistic and an accomplished seamstress who also loved to read.

Visitation will be held from 10:00am to 11:00am on Saturday, March 19, 2016 at St. Andrews United Methodist Church, where memorial services will be held at the conclusion of the visitation at 11:00am. Pastor Larry Kreps will officiate. The arrangements are being handled by COLDREN CRATES FUNERAL HOME in Findlay. Memorials may be given to the St. Andrews United Methodist Womans Association. Online condolences are welcomed at www.coldrenrates.com.