

Remembering You ...

Sometimes, the most compelling love stories rise out of trial and tribulation.

Our associates often witness it in the beautiful relationships established among senior couples we serve in our centers. Their commitment and affection obviously have grown stronger with the years.

An example – although this did not happen in a Life Care facility – is revealed by Becky Zerbe, author of an article *Penning a Marriage*, appearing in *Marriage Partnership* (Spring 2006). Her husband, Roger Zerbe, who suffered from early onset Alzheimer's disease, wrote in a journal to his wife after a particularly troubling bout of forgetfulness:



Honey,

Today fear is taking over. The day is coming when all my memories of this life we share will be gone. You and the boys will be gone from me. I will love you even as I am surrounded by you and your love. I don't want to leave you. I want to grow old in the warmth of memories. Forgive me for leaving so slowly and painfully.

Blinking back tears, Becky wrote:

My sweet husband,

I will continue to go on loving you and caring for you – not because you know me or remember our life, but because I remember you. I will remember the man who proposed to me and told me he loved me, the look on his face when his children were born, the father he was, the way he loved our extended family. I'll recall his love for riding, hiking, and reading; his tears at sentimental movies; the unexpected witty remarks; and how he held my hand while he prayed. I cherish the pleasure, obligation, commitment, and opportunity to care for you because I remember you!

What a remarkable bond between a man and a woman! Their love rises above circumstances, above despair, above death itself.

They help define the magnificence of the emotion.

– Beecher Hunter