

Doug's Memorial 6/12/15

Aaron & Justin, you know your Dad and I met because of a dear, mutual friend who knew both of us were single and didn't want to be. I liked your Dad right away, and we discovered we had lots in common—from our work with young children, to the Peace Corps, to our birthday! But it was when your Dad took me home to meet you two that I was totally sold! You were 13 and 11. Your Dad's eyes lit up in your presence. And yours lit up in his. He was so tuned in to each of you, and so delighted with you two, that I knew I wanted to be part of your family! I was shocked later on when he'd advise you, "If it feels good, do it!" To me, that sounded like giving adolescents license to get into all sorts of trouble! But I think you knew that was part joke and part sincere advice to trust your feelings. I love seeing you both now as parents, tuned in to your children, the way he tuned in to you.

Hannah, Hayden and Sage, your Papa/Poppy/Grandpa/G'pa loved you SO much. You **know** that, right? He always wanted to be with you as much as possible! He took so much pleasure in each of you. Can you remember when you were little and he used to play the pen game with you? You know how he always carried his fountain pen in his breast pocket. So of course, when you were little and he put you on his lap, you each discovered that pen and you grabbed it! You loved his reaction! He would say "What!" or "Hmph!" and pretend to be angry! You'd laugh and grab that pen over and over. Then you'd tease him by putting his pen down inside his shirt! That was even funnier. You'd laugh and laugh. Luckily, Papa/Grandpa had three fountain pens. I want you to each have one, so you always know that **you are delightful.**

So how did your Dad, Papa, Grandpa get so particularly wonderful? I think it was because he was very well loved by his grandmother, who took care of him till he was 3 1/2, while his mom worked and his dad was in the army in WWII. But then he suddenly lost his grandmother as his caregiver, when his dad came home, a total stranger to little Doug, and his mom took over the childrearing. They just didn't understand how important Doug's attachment to his grandmother was. He got in trouble for going by himself to see her, riding his **tricycle** many blocks, crossing many streets! Later on, when his mother died suddenly of a heart attack at age 55, he got therapy to help him with his loss. That's when he understood more fully what had happened to him as a child, and he made the big career switch to get his MSW and become a child therapist. He knew deeply what tuned-in nurturing felt like! And also what the loss of that attachment felt like. And he had the wisdom to follow his true vocation and be a tuned-in nurturer--for all of **us**, and for hundreds of children who needed him. Even though we have a big hole in our lives without him, he will always be with us, inside us, because he loved us so well.

I especially want to say thank you to Hannah & Hayden's Mama, Elizabeth, and Sage's Mom, Laurel. They're not up here because Doug didn't help raise them! But they have been a huge support. Without Elizabeth, especially, all that's involved in this memorial service wouldn't have happened! THANK YOU, Elizabeth and Laurel.