

Good morning, family and friends,

We are here today to honor the incredible life of **Lena**—our grandmother, our guiding light, and the heart of our family. Lena was not only a woman of resilience and determination, but a source of love and warmth for everyone who knew her. She showed us how to face life with courage, how to live generously, and how to find joy in even the smallest moments.

Grandma worked hard throughout her life. She carried a quiet strength and a deep determination to give her family the very best, even when times were difficult. Her children remember seasons when money was scarce and every dollar mattered. But Grandma had a gift for turning even the hardest days into something meaningful. With a little creativity and a lot of love, she could make the simplest meal feel like the best one they had ever shared. That was who she was. She always made the best out of every situation.

She also had a deeply generous heart. Even when she did not have much, she still found ways to give to others. She cared deeply about helping people in need and supported many charitable causes over the years. In her later years, her home was filled with letters and mail from the organizations she had supported. They were tucked into every corner and stack of papers. We like to think those letters made her feel connected to the world and to the many lives she hoped to help.

Grandma's kindness was matched by her warmth and her humor. She had a smile that could light up a room, and her words were always gentle, though every once in a while she surprised us.

Most of the time, if something went wrong she would laugh and say, "Oh baloney." But one day, out of nowhere, she blurted out something far less polite. The shock on everyone's face only made the moment funnier. It became one of those small memories that perfectly captured her personality. Sweet, a little mischievous, and completely unforgettable.

Lena also had a special way of bringing people together. Holidays at her home were something everyone looked forward to. The house would fill with the smell of homemade treats and the sound of family talking, laughing, and sharing stories. Aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends gathered under one roof, and those days became the memories we hold closest to our hearts.

Some of the sweetest moments were the quiet ones. Early morning phone calls before the day really began. Simple conversations about life, about music, about whatever happened to cross her mind. Those talks were never rushed. They were just two people sharing time together, and they are memories that will stay with us forever.

Even during the later years of her life, when dementia slowly began to take pieces of memory away, Lena faced it with remarkable grace and dignity. She continued to tell stories from her life, often with the same sparkle she always had. She spoke about adventures from years ago, about people she had met, and about moments that made her smile.

One of the last things she shared before she passed was something both simple and beautiful. She said she was at the end of the rainbow. It was one of those phrases that felt like it came from somewhere deeper than memory, somewhere peaceful.

Lena's life was a reflection of resilience, generosity, faith, and joy. She gave everything she had to her family and brought comfort and happiness to countless people along the way. She was more than just our grandmother. She was our example. Our teacher. Our inspiration.

Her legacy lives on in all of us—in the love she shared, the traditions she started, and the lessons she quietly taught through the way she lived.

Grandma's wisdom can be captured in these words:

A limb has fallen from the family tree.  
I keep hearing a voice that says, "Grieve not for me.  
Remember the best times, the laughter, the song.  
The good life I lived while I was strong.  
Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you.  
Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.  
My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest.  
Remembering all, how I truly was blessed.  
Continue traditions, no matter how small.  
Go on with your life, don't worry about falls.  
I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin.  
Until the day comes we're together again."

Grandma once said she was at the end of the rainbow. So today, we hold that image close to our hearts. She is there now, at peace, watching over the family she loved so deeply.

And until the day we meet again, we will carry her love, her lessons, and her spirit with us.

Thank you.