

Val's Eulogy

By Sean Delaney, June 6, 2013

Friends and family, thank you all for coming from all over, both near and far. The sheer number of people here is a true testament to how much Valerie has impacted every one of our lives, and in return how much she is truly loved.

For those of you that may not know me, I am Sean Delaney, Valerie's husband. I would like to share a few of the things that led me personally to falling in love with this absolutely amazing woman, some of which may resonate with you.

Our story started during summer training when we met on a flight out of Australia. In the following semester, our friendship was built on studying statics and dynamics. During this initial test of teamwork, I discovered Val was extremely intelligent, hard working, and hard-headed. This hard-headedness led me to at one time commenting to my friends, "there is no way I could ever date this girl." Val had other plans however, and she asked me out on our first date that winter. The hard-headedness prevailed again. At that point, I figured she was worth giving it a shot, and man was I right.

We started doing bible readings together at school, where she helped me to renew my faith. The most impressive aspect about her was how she juggled Aerospace Engineering, minoring in French, varsity lacrosse, singing in the Glee Club, visiting with all of her friends, and spending time with me everyday, all while getting to sleep by 10 o'clock every night. Meanwhile, I only had my homework to do and frequently found myself up past midnight. In this area, she taught me the importance of organization and time management.

Valerie was always excited about exploring new places. While at the Academy, we started our travelling adventures to places like the outer banks, Hawaii, camping in WV and backpacking across Europe. She loved to try new things, and drug me out of my stubborn ways to try new things with her. She opened my eyes to a world of delicacies, such as fine wines and cheese. Without this, I would have forever only known the world of Budweiser in my life. Here, she taught me the importance of open-mindedness.

From her friends perspective, Valerie will be remembered for giving advice and willingness to lend a hand to anyone during a time of need. She always told her friends she loved them and she was praying

for them. She fully invested in her friends. She had a way of really making people feel special and appreciated. In true mentor fashion, she would always tell people to take care of and look after each other. Friends remember her saying things like “just know that God is in control of everything,” a statement way more mature than a typical 26 year old would normally make.

Valerie placed the biggest value on family and friends that I’ve ever known. Val was to be the future matriarch of the family. She did a great job of keeping in touch with her entire family on a regular basis. Her network of friends never really dwindled either, as she managed to keep up with all of them through phone calls, Facebook messages, and care packages. The evidence of the extent to which she touched lives lies with the 200 now-collected female aviator wings, from chiefs to admirals as early as the 1970s that can be seen on the display table. She was hands down a huge mentor and example for friends, both males and females, in how to live life. In this area, she taught me the importance of friendships, relationships and a compassion for others.

Of course she had a stunning natural beauty second to none. Try finding a bad picture of her. They don’t exist. For me though, it really came down to realizing I wanted a wife that I could do anything with. I didn’t want to make up for taking time away from my wife to go do the things I loved, like rock climbing, mountain biking and hunting. With Val, I didn’t have to. I could do it all with her.

She was the best wife I could have ever asked for. Before she left me in March, she had the house completely organized in typical Val fashion. I came home from a detachment with my squadron to a house full of new baskets, drapes, furniture, accent chairs – she even organized my clothes! It was as if she had prepared the house to leave me alone in it for a while. God blessed me with an awesome wife and best friend. In her many things she did as a wife to make me, her husband, happy, I learned the true meaning of unconditional love.

When Valerie’s nephew PJ passed away, she offered the advice to her sister Caroline that God has a plan for all of us, and PJ would want everyone to be happy for the life they celebrated together. Now, it seems she gave that advice in preparation for her own departure.

Valerie and I truly lived life to the fullest given the amazing 6 years we shared together. The greatest moment in my life was February 18, 2012, when I took Valerie’s hand in marriage. The second greatest

moment of my life will be seeing her again in heaven. May God's grace and peace be with us all.